



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 2:24 • 24 MAY 2019

Forget Adani: Australia's future is renewable energy

By Tim Buckley

While the Queensland government moves reactively to fast-track the approvals process of the decade-long delayed Adani thermal coal mine in the Galilee Basin, thermal coal export forecasts continue to show a terminal decline globally in the long term, consistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

There are three immediate reasons why the Adani thermal coal mine should not go ahead: first, this tax haven-owned thermal coal mine will provide less than 1,000 jobs locally; second, it will generate no royalties to the Queensland government for seven years; and third, it is unable to attract partner investment or insurance anywhere in the world due to forecasts predicting the technological obsolescence of thermal coal.

Where the real opportunity lies

A fourth and primary reason is that Australia's renewable energy-generated hydrogen sector can potentially become one of the country's largest export industries, and this is where the real opportunity lies both in terms of jobs and investment.

Australia has a growing range of alternatives to thermal coal mining for regional employment and investment.

Given that Australia's energy market is heavily influenced by financial markets and risk evaluation, the Queensland government should urgently heed the



very recent momentum showing 112 significant global financial institutions announcing an exit from coal financing.

In 2019 alone, there has been a major announcement every week from a significant investor shifting away from coal towards alternate renewable technologies and a carbon-free world.

On May 22, BHP clearly stated they have "no appetite for any new investment in thermal coal, regardless of how lucrative those investments may be."

The same day, Mizuho Financial Group of Japan tightened its coal financing policy to support a progressive reduction in carbon emissions.

This follows five major financial institutions across Asia announcing plans over the last two months to move away from financing coal-fired power plants, further signalling this accelerating trend across the region.

The Queensland government is being pressured to approve a thermal coal mine that opens up an entirely new, remote 320Mtpa low-energy high-ash thermal coal basin that the world does not need. Such a decision is entirely contradictory to all the mounting finance, regulatory and corporate evidence globally.

Capital flight from thermal coal is accelerating, globally and locally.

• Continued p4

• P2-3: Muroch saturates country with propaganda

• P4: China Stone shelves Galilee coal mine

• P5: Plastics industry spews out CO2

The fossil-fueled Murdoch media

It's no coincidence that a sustained pro-Adani, anti-Labor campaign by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp papers has seen federal Labor wiped out in north Queensland, and the state's Labor premier compelled to hasten the approval of Adani's Carmichael Mine.

"The fossil fueled Murdoch media empire ... saturated the country with dishonest right-wing campaign propaganda," said Professor Stephan Lewandowsky, an Australian cognitive scientist, writing to *ThinkProgress*.

"Australians elected someone who once brought a lump of coal into Parliament urging us to dismiss the warnings from climate scientists, and to dig up more coal instead.

"There is little doubt that his government will do precisely that."

A sad aspect is that Queenslanders are deluded about the actual number of jobs Adani will provide,

The dominant Murdoch media has constantly mentioned 10,000 jobs. The truth is that, after construction, there will be as few as 100 employees at any one time. The whole operation will be automated to the max.

FFB notes that papers like the *Courier-Mail* and *Townsville Bulletin* have never printed the truth about jobs, and never spelled out the mine's threat to the Great Barrier Reef and to agriculture and water security.

Do-nothing bludger bird

A News Corp's *Daily Telegraph* columnist recently demeaned the black-throated finch, threatened with extinction if the mine proceeds, as a "do-nothing bludger bird".

Participants in the Bob Brown Convoy were described as "revolting", a "ragtag anti-mine mob" from prosperous southern cities.

News Corp's bias has become too much for some of its own journalists.

According to *The Guardian*, *The Australian's* social affairs writer, Rick Morton, told journalism students at the University of Technology, Sydney, that senior writers know what the editorial line is and write stories to fit.

Asked whether the Murdoch paper's journalists were uncomfortable with



TOP: Front pages of the *Courier-Mail*, May 22, and *Townsville Bulletin* May 23.

CENTRE and ABOVE: *Courier-Mail* two-page spreads.

Note the heading **HOW WE SET THE AGENDA** – a shameless admission of the Murdoch news empire's aims.

Australia saturated with propaganda

• Continued from p2

The *Australian* barracking for the Coalition in the election, Morton said they were “more uncomfortable certainly now than at any time I’ve been there in the past seven years”.

“There is a real mood that something has gone wrong,” he said in a podcast posted online by UTS.

“People will tell you going back a decade it used to be a very great paper, and in many ways it still is, but some of the craziness has been dialled up.”

Columnists: Predictable, weak, unresearched and juvenile

The same day, a former News Corp employee, Tony Koch said, “The journalists are not to blame. Many have been friends of mine for decades and they share my disgust. Probably the most blatant example of bias and low-grade coverage is the employment of most of the columnists who appear weekly. Their observations are, in the main, predictable, weak, unresearched and juvenile.

“I understand how circulation numbers have plummeted when readers are expected to digest the undergraduate efforts of most of these opinion writers. Really, they are appalling.”

The degree to which News Corp has become a pro-Adani pamphlet, rather than a newspaper, was revealed this week when three north Queensland papers – the *Townsville Bulletin*, the *Mackay Daily Mercury* and the *Rockhampton Morning Bulletin*, devoted their front covers and four inside pages to bullying Queensland Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, to speed up approval of the mine (see at right).

Meanwhile, the *Courier-Mail* was thundering that the mine must be approved within two weeks, or it would ensure a Queensland Labor electoral blood-bath in 18 months.

All the Queensland papers quoted Adani Australia CEO, Lucas Dow at length – with his demands for immediate approval of the mine.

Palaszczuk was kow-towed into instructing the Queensland Coordinator General, a public servant, to set a timetable for the mine approval.

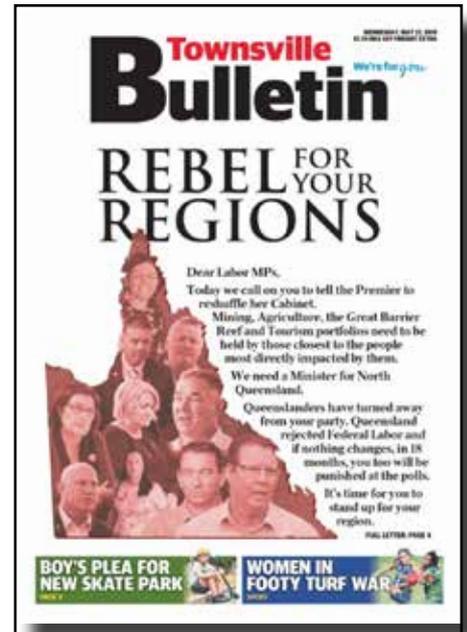
As **FFB** published, it emerged that conditions for approval of a plan to protect

the black-throated finch had been weakened. The Premier announced the black-throated finch plan decision is due for approval by May 31, and the groundwater management plan decision is due by the June 13.

Adani would never have got such a favourable election result and the fast-tracking of these approvals without the Murdoch press.

Former PM Kevin Rudd recently called News Corp a cancer on our democracy. He’s not wrong, and that cancer has now metastasized.

The Murdochs are instrumental in having major government decisions made through fear and intimidation. Being aware is the only thing we can do about it.



Australia's renewable energy opportunities

• Continued from p1

Australia's three largest electricity generators, Energy Australia, Origin Energy and AGL, have all ruled out any involvement in new coal-fired plants.

The Reserve Bank of Australia and the Australian Prudential Regulatory Authority also recently sounded the alarm about the real and permanent consequences for the economy, business and financial markets if emissions are not reduced, warning of climate risk threatening Australia's financial stability.

Australia has a growing range of alternatives to thermal coal mining for regional employment and investment.

Recent technological advances have made renewables one of the country's fastest growing industries, and Australia is already a world leader in battery storage installations, while zero emissions hydrogen exports look exceptionally promising.

ACT, Tas, SA world leader

At a state level, the integration of renewable electricity generation is already being achieved at a world-leading scale in the Australian Capital Territory, Tasmania and South Australia, with Victoria and Queensland recently lifting ambitions for 50% renewables by 2030 and, as a result, unlocking large-scale regional investment and employment opportunities.

Queensland now has the opportunity to transition the state into a cleaner, more sustainable and affordable energy future.

Investing in renewable energy infrastructure can build the State's engineering and scientific capacity, leverage financial capacity, and create thousands of jobs regionally for Queenslanders.

From a financial point of view, the deflationary low-cost renewable energy market is providing abundant opportunities for astute investors keenly aware of the global shift away from coal and carbon-emitting industries.

Queensland recently lifted ambitions for 50% renewables by 2030 and, as a result, is unlocking large-scale regional investment and employment opportunities.

Queensland is in a prime position to attract a wealth of renewable investment to replace the small percentage of thermal coal royalties the State attracts, not to mention the hidden costs in the form of externalities including air/particulate pollution, water shortages, carbon emissions and adverse health consequences.

Now is the time for Queensland to prepare communities for the inevitable transition and accelerate investment in renewables to create regional jobs, rather than doubling down on a dying industry. It should invest in the renewable export industries of the future, not approve a backwards-looking thermal coal mine.

• *Tim Buckley is IEEFA's director of energy finance studies.*

China Stone's Galilee coal mine shelved

A massive thermal coal mine planned for the Galilee Basin has likely been scrapped due to international market factors.

According to the ABC, the company will not explain why it abandoned the process, but analysts believe the project is no longer aligned with China's interests in coal and is financially "unviable" given the difficulty companies face obtaining finance for coal developments.

The MacMines office phone numbers are disconnected and the company's Brisbane office, at the address on its website, has been vacant for months.

MacMines' proposed China Stone mine would have supplied up to 38 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) of coal for export to the Asian market, principally China during its lifespan of about 50 years.

Adani's decision to scale down its project and planned rail line may have been a contributing factor to the viability of the China Stone venture.

Adani originally planned to build a new standard-gauge link between the Galilee Basin and Abbot Point with the assistance of a \$900 million loan, via the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility.

The China Stone project had hoped to use that rail line to transport its coal to port.

Lock the Gate Alliance spokesperson Carmel Flint said it would be no surprise if Chinese banks were not willing to lend funds for the project, in the same way they ruled out funding for the controversial Adani coal mine in 2017.

Chinese Ports have also recently refused to accept Australian coking coal, with speculation China may be looking to introduce a cap on thermal coal imports from Australia as well.

"What's clear is that workers in Central Queensland and other coal mining areas need options for long term, steady employment, that isn't subject to the boom and bust cycle of the coal market," Flint said.



Annual greenhouse gas emissions for the plastics industry. See report p5.

FFB

FFB

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



Plastics industry burns through carbon budget

The plastics industry plays a major — and growing — role in climate change, according to a report published by the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL).

By 2050, making and disposing of plastics could be responsible for a cumulative 56 gigatons of carbon, the report found, up to 14 percent of the world's remaining carbon budget.

In 2019, the plastics industry is on track to release as much greenhouse gas pollution as 189 new coal-fired power plants running year-round, the report found — and the industry plans to expand so rapidly that by 2030, it will create 1.34 gigatons of climate-changing emissions a year, equal to 295 coal plants.

It's an expansion that, in the United States, is largely driven by the shale gas rush unleashed by hydraulic fracturing, or fracking.

The petrochemical expansion also comes over the same period of time that international plans to reduce climate change call for rapid reductions in greenhouse gases from all sources — transportation, electricity, and industry.

"Humanity has less than twelve years to cut global greenhouse emissions in half and just three decades to eliminate them almost entirely," said Carroll Muffett, president of CIEL, citing UN figures. "It has long been clear that

plastic threatens the global environment and puts human health at risk. This report demonstrates that plastic, like the rest of the fossil economy, is putting the climate at risk as well."

"If growth trends continue," the report concludes, "plastic will account for 20 percent of global oil consumption by 2050."

The new report looks at how plastic production carries major impacts for the climate as it goes from raw materials tapped by the fossil fuel industries all the way through its ultimate disposal or breakdown in the environment.

• See the full story on *DeSmog Blog*:

<https://www.desmogblog.com/2019/05/15/plastics-industry-climate-change-emissions-oceans-ciel-report>

• Download the report here:

<https://www.ciel.org/plasticandclimate/>

FFB

SPONSORED BY

Fossil Fool Bulletin

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

 Fossil Fool Bulletin

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

To subscribe free, click here:
<https://knitting-nannas.org/bulletins.php>

Inside the news

The **climate election was lost** — not that **Labor** was going to save the planet, but at least it acknowledged the need for emissions reduction and had plans to do something about climate change.

FFB has spelled out, pages 2-3, how much the Murdochcracy was involved.

The federal election result has left many environmentalists **depressed**, even to the point of feeling **physically ill**.

Which is why **FFB** has led this edition with a positive spin (p1 & 4), because **losing hope** is even more **dangerous** for future generations than Labor losing the election.

Stopping Adani may be a **proxy war** for stopping climate de-stabilisation, but on its own, that won't save the planet.

We got into this mess **one coal mine and one power station at a time**, and now we have many coal mines and power stations to be shut down, one at a time if necessary.

The **Coalition** is already pushing for new coal fired power stations, their first targets being one at **Collinsville**, Queensland, and the taxpayer-funded refurbishment of one in NSW owned by generous donor **Trevor St Baker** (p14 & 15).

A *Guardian* article, "The heat is on", (p11) spells out the most realistic take **FFB** has seen on the **impacts of climate change**. Humans may abandon huge tracts of the globe and move to the high latitudes: Canada, Siberia, Scandinavia, parts of Greenland, Patagonia, Tasmania, New Zealand and perhaps newly ice-free parts of the western Antarctic coast. This is recommended reading.

If the worst comes to the worst, people need to be aware of the consequences and how to adapt in an inhospitable climate.

But this is **no reason to give up campaigning** to limit destruction from **fossil fuels**. Your grandchildren will know you tried, and even small victories will make a difference to their prospects of survival.

Kia kaha, as the NZ Maori say — keep fighting.

FFB

In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 41,200 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links to view original articles.](#) (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/shayne-neumann-palaszczuk-handling-of-adani-contributed-to-poor-result/news-story/>

Shayne Neumann: Adani warns Palaszczuk – listen to voters

Michael McKenna & Charlie Peel, *The Australian*, 20/05/2019

Mining giant Adani has praised Queensland voters for voicing their support for the Carmichael mine project at polling booths and warned Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk she needed to start listening to her constituents or face defeat at next year's state election. ...

Adani Mining chief executive Lucas Dow said the wave of support expressed at polling booths had been overwhelming. ...

Mr Dow said people living in mining communities throughout Queensland were tired of being dictated to by southern politicians and had expressed their disdain for comments made by Ms Trad in Parliament, telling coal miners they needed to re-skill. ...

Mr Dow accused the Palaszczuk government of "continued efforts to delay and undermine the delivery of the Carmichael Project", despite waving through approvals on other projects without the same level of scrutiny. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-05-21/adani-mine-should-go-ahead-election-shows-rockhampton-mayor-says/11133948>

Adani coal mine must go ahead in wake of Coalition election win, Rockhampton mayor says

Megan Hendry, *ABC*, 21/05/2019

Adani must get a "fair go" and be allowed to open up the Galilee Basin for "jobs to flow" in the central Queensland region, Rockhampton Mayor Margaret Strelow says.

Queensland Resources Council (QRC) chief executive Ian Macfarlane said people living outside Brisbane had said "they're not going to be told by southerners what to do". ...

Mackay Conservation Group coordinator Peter McCallum said pro-mining groups were using the election result to boost their campaigns.



"The Stop Adani Convoy drew national and global attention to this environmental atrocity-in-waiting and, insofar as climate change figured in Scott Morrison's win, it was a victory of money over morality. The Bob Brown Foundation will raise the campaign against the Adani mine because burning new coal is immoral in a heating world. The mine will not succeed." – Bob Brown. Photo: Jeff Dawson

"It's not surprising at all that Adani and the [Queensland] Resources Council are continuing to try to build pressure on the State Government to ignore the scientific evidence and simply approve the mine based on political pressure," he said.

"The science of climate change doesn't change one bit based on an election outcome in Queensland or Australia or anywhere else in the world." ...

Community, business and industry leaders held a roundtable meeting in Rockhampton, arguing regional Queensland was getting a rough deal from the Queensland Government.

They are now planning a "day of action" later this week to put further pressure on the State Government to grant final approvals. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/palaszczuk-government-drops-adani-fine-as-pressure-mounts/news-story/55fd6a0b1ac1600408caa848d-ac4745b>

Palaszczuk government drops Adani fine as pressure mounts

Charlie Peel, *The Australian*, 21/05/2019

The Palaszczuk Government has dropped a bid to fine Adani-owned Abbot Point Operations \$12,000 over the company's release of sediment-con-

taminated floodwater during Cyclone Debbie in 2017.

The environment department today agreed to Abbot Point Operations' offer to build a \$100,000 real-time water quality monitoring system at the discharge point of its settlement ponds in return for the penalty infringement, which had escalated to court, being dropped. ...

The water monitoring system will be built at the authorised flood water release point opposite the ocean to provide real-time monitoring of water flows.

Abbot Point Operations' pledge to build the new system comes on top of \$15 million in infrastructure improvements at the site in the past two years, including increased water storage, higher levee banks and better piping. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/crime-and-justice/adani-stormwater-monitoring-to-be-installed-following-court-action-after-cyclone-debbie/news-story/>

Adani stormwater monitoring to be installed following court action after Cyclone Debbie

Domanii Cameron & Sarah Vogler, *Courier-Mail*, 21/05/2019

Adani will install new water monitoring infrastructure at its Abbot Point

coal terminal, bringing court action to an end following Cyclone Debbie, as the government defends its progress on the mine following the federal election “drubbing” ...

Meanwhile, senior Palaszczuk Government Minister Cameron Dick has defended the State’s progress on approving Adani’s Carmichael coal mine, saying it is the first for the basin so more care needs to be taken. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/anti-coal-labor-mate-got-adviser-job-after-rules-bent/news-story/4ae4db2113734eb80a735cbab39fbc25>

Anti-coal activist given special treatment on job

Michael McKenna & Sean Parnell, The Australian, 22/05/2019

The anti-coal activist appointed as the top policy adviser to the Queensland Department of Environment – now holding up the proposed Adani mine – was given special treatment by the Palaszczuk government in applying for the newly created position.

Former Queensland Conservation Council head Tim Seelig, a long-time ally of Deputy Premier Jackie Trad, missed the cut-off date for applications last year and later sent his CV directly to the chair of the vetting panel, which then selected him over more than 50 other hopefuls. ...

The documents also show that Mr Seelig – who campaigned against Campbell Newman in the 2015 state election while working for the Wilderness Society – overcame a “must have” selection criterion that specified the applicant be “apolitical – both politically and advocacy related”. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-05-22/adani-approvals-removal-environment-department/11138140>

Adani delays lead Anastacia Palaszczuk to ask Coordinator-General to intervene

Josh Bavas, ABC, 22/05/2019

Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk has asked the Coordinator-General to oversee the approvals process for the Adani coal project saying both she and the community were “fed up” with waiting for the department to approve the Indian mining company’s environmental management plans. ...

Adani mining chief executive Lucas Dow said he was cautiously optimistic about the Queensland Government’s change of tone.

“I’m encouraged to hear that the Pre-

mier’s finally said enough is enough, but the reality is what we’ve now got is simply another process,” Mr Dow said.

“If these approvals are not provided within the next two weeks, this new process that the Premier has described is simply nothing more than a further political delaying tactic.” ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/conservation/what-s-next-for-the-coal-mine-that-helped-to-return-morrison-to-power-20190520-p51p7j.html>

What’s next for the coal mine that helped to return Morrison to power?

Peter Hannam, SMH, 22/05/2019

Adani’s proposed mine in Queensland has long been a lightning rod for division over coal-mining and climate change in Australia. It is also being named as a big reason for Labor’s lost seats in Queensland amid the Morrison government’s upset re-election.

Now Queensland’s Premier says everyone’s “had a gutful” of the issue – and she wants it sorted out. ...

So what’s next for this controversial project and what are the implications of it finally going ahead? ...

There are still 15 plans needing federal approvals, eight of which require the nod before the mine’s operations can begin.

Adani’s not done with the courts either. Its lawyers are fending off appeals against the mine by the Wangan and Jagalingou Traditional Owners Council, which will be heard in the Federal Court on May 27 and 28.

And the Environmental Defenders Office in Queensland has hearing dates set for June 27-28 for its challenge – on behalf of the Australian Conservation Foundation – of Minister Price’s handling of the approval process for the North Galilee Water Scheme ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/may/22/fed-up-queensland-premier-calls-for-adani-coalmine-approvals-timeline-this-week>

‘Fed up’: Queensland premier calls for Adani coalmine approvals timeline this week

Lisa Cox, The Guardian, 22/05/2019

Queensland’s premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk, says she is “fed up” with the state’s process for Adani’s Carmichael coalmine and has called an emergency meeting to set a deadline for the outstanding approvals. ...

Environment groups urged the Queensland government not to bow to political pressure.

Peter McCallum, the coordinator of the Mackay Conservation Group, said the decision to fast-track the process “follows intense political pressure from the mining industry and the Murdoch press”.

“It is a kick in the guts for all those Queenslanders who were counting on the Palaszczuk government to make sound scientific decisions on environmental issues,” he said. ...

<https://www.afr.com/news/politics/national/wake-up-call-palaszczuk-buckles-on-adani-three-days-after-election-20190522-p51px2>

‘Wake-up call’: Palaszczuk buckles on Adani three days after election

Mark Ludlow, AFR, 22/05/2019

Labor’s wipeout in Queensland in the federal election has forced the state’s Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk to clear the way for the approval of Adani’s mine ...

“The Queensland government should not cave into pressure from Adani and the coal industry,” Australian Conservation Foundation’s nature program manager Basha Stasak said.

“If Adani’s mine goes ahead it will lock in the burning of Galilee Basin coal for decades to come.”

Mackay Conservation Group coordinator Peter McCallum said the Palaszczuk government should stick to the science when assessing the Carmichael mine, especially its impact on groundwater. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/adani-puts-heat-on-queensland-labor-mps/news-story/a67c82b4d83ef703a6858312174f0a>

Federal election 2019: Premier Palaszczuk backflips on Adani mine

Sarah Elks & Charlie Peel, The Australian, 22/05/2019

After internal pressure from her own party to act on Adani after federal Labor’s primary vote crashed at the weekend, Ms Palaszczuk raced to the mining city of Mackay today and ordered her own Environment Department to meet with Adani and the state’s Coordinator-General and sort out a timeline for the approvals. ...

Opposition leader Deb Frecklington said the planned meeting simply deflected responsibility away from the premier and on to the co-ordinator general who she said has been part of the approval process for close to a decade. ...

In a press release this morning, Adani Mining chief executive Lucas Dow said

the company had written to all state Labor MPs to request an “urgent meeting” to understand their stance on the Carmichael Project.

“Queenslanders have made it clear that they want and support coal mining and projects like ours. We have had overwhelming support from Queenslanders wanting the Carmichael Project to proceed and to proceed immediately,” Mr Dow said.

“We have given the state members all the facts, demonstrating we are ready to begin, provided the outstanding management plans are finalised by the Queensland Labor government once and for all.” ...

<https://www.afr.com/business/mining/adani-approval-would-pave-way-for-other-galilee-coal-projects-20190523-p51qhi>

Adani approval would pave way for other Galilee coal projects

Luke Housego, AFR, 23/05/2019

Approval of Adani’s Carmichael mine would clear the path for progress on other coal mine projects in Queensland’s Galilee Basin, according to Queensland Resources Council chief executive Ian Macfarlane. ...

Including China Stone, there are four other major projects proposed for the Galilee Basin. Kevin’s Corner and Alpha are owned by GVK Hancock, a joint venture between Indian conglomerate GVK and Gina Rinehart’s Hancock Prospecting. The two mines would produce 60 million tonnes of thermal coal.

The major other project is the North Alpha Project owned by Clive Palmer’s Waratah Coal. According to the company’s website, the project would produce 40 million tonnes per annum of thermal coal. ...

Former head of research for Citibank and now director of the Institute for Energy Economics & Financial Analysis, Tim Buckley, argues that new mines in the Galilee should not be developed and questions their viability.

He said that developing thermal coal mines in the Galilee posed a risk to mine owners because of changing demand for thermal coal, in contrast to coking coal used in steel-making, for which there are no alternatives. ...



<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/finch-trade-off-breaks-adani-mine-stalemate/news-story/91b4e7edc29f3e68b9f8bf26d8668438>

Finch trade-off breaks Adani mine stalemate

Sarah Elks, Michael McKenna & Charlie Peel, The Australian, 24/05/2019

A major hurdle to Adani’s coalmine could be cleared within weeks, after high-level crisis talks resolved an impasse over a protection plan for an endangered finch that has stalled the controversial project. ...

Government sources said state officials and the Indian conglomerate had agreed that population surveys of the bird could occur in the early years of the project instead of before construction.

But it is understood the CSIRO will still need to sign off on the latest version of the company’s groundwater management plan before work can start. ...

“Without enforceable guarantees on secure local jobs and procurement – along with sureties relating to water security – the Premier risks being conned by corporate carpet-baggers,” said CFMEU construction and general state secretary Michael Ravbar. ...

The Indian conglomerate is yet to sign up to a royalties incentive deal with the state government ... The government had offered to let Adani defer the payment of some royalties for the first five years of coal exports from the mine, with the full amount to be paid, with interest, at a later date.

Senior state Labor sources said they suspected Adani was now angling to exploit the political fallout from the federal election to pressure the government to offer a more generous royalties deal. ...

QRC chief executive Ian Macfarlane said the industry would pay the state government a record \$5.3bn in royalties this financial year. “We remain concerned Treasurer Jackie Trad will increase royalties in the state budget on 11 June as part of an anti-mining agenda,” he said. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/cfmeu-powerbrokers-split-over-adani-coalmine/news-story/f849687739c88e46c2b66e0e4f876f5e>

CFMEU powerbrokers split over Adani coalmine

Michael Wray, Courier-Mail, 24/05/2019

The state’s most powerful union, the CFMEU, is being torn apart over Adani, with one arm launching a stinging rebuke to the Premier over her backflip on the mine and attacking the Indian company as a “shonky multinational” and “corporate carpetbagger”.

Michael Ravbar, the CFMEU’s controversial construction division boss, yesterday slammed Anastacia Palaszczuk for her “sudden rush” to demand a final decision on the Carmichael megamine. ...

Mr Ravbar, who is also a Labor federal executive member, had pounced on Ms Palaszczuk’s latest comments in Townsville to label Adani a “shonky multinational” and saying “the promise of jobs and prosperity that was such a touchstone in the federal election is a myth, a fiction designed to hoodwink people into thinking Adani will be a good corporate citizen”.

He said Adani would bring construction workers from India, and the mine would be largely automated, with just a handful of labour-hire workers.

Adani chief executive Lucas Dow rubbished those claims. “There’s no automation contemplated on our project; we’re not engaging with 457 visas, we’re talking about jobs for Queenslanders,” he said.

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/may/21/eden-project-plans-150m-eco-tourism-site-for-victorian-coalmine>

Eden Project plans \$150m ecotourism site for Victorian coalmine

Lisa Cox, The Guardian, 21/05/2019

A UK charity that redeveloped a china clay quarry in Cornwall into a major ecotourism project has its eyes on Alcoa’s former coalmine in Anglesea, Victoria.

The Eden Project and Alcoa announced a plan to turn a portion of the site into a \$150m ecotourism attraction based around Anglesea’s coastal location. ...

Alcoa closed the site in 2015 after 46 years of operation. Alcoa has funded the concept work for the Eden Project development. Rehabilitation at the site will continue to be managed by Alcoa over approximately next 10 years. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/may/22/bhp-warns-investors-coal-could-be-phased-out-sooner-than-expected>

BHP warns investors coal could be phased out 'sooner than expected'

AAP, The Guardian, 22/05/2019

BHP is looking to add more oil, copper and nickel resources to its portfolio, while souring on thermal coal because it thinks the fossil fuel will be phased out, "potentially sooner than expected".

BHP's chief financial officer, Peter Beaven, told investors and analysts in a strategy briefing on Wednesday that "the world will be a very different place in 10 to 20 years' time" and the global miner must be thoughtful about the risks and opportunities. ...

<https://www.theage.com.au/business/companies/liddell-must-be-extended-or-replaced-minister-warns-power-companies-20190522-p51q5g.html>

Liddell must be 'extended or replaced': Minister warns power companies

Nick Toscano, The Age, 22/05/2019

The federal government has swiftly renewed its hardline approach to the energy sector, threatening tough action against power retailers who fail to ensure they have adequate supply for households they are serving.

Asked about the looming closure of AGL's coal-fired Liddell power station in 2022, which will remove 1680 megawatts from the grid, Energy Minister Angus Taylor warned on Wednesday that the government was prepared to utilise new laws to ensure reliable power supply and prevent blackouts and brownouts.

Mr Taylor said the Retailer Reliability Obligation, which takes effect from July 1, required energy retailers to "meet the needs of customers with enough despatchable, 24/7 power" and provides for stiff financial penalties if they do not.

"That means Liddell will either have to be replaced or extended – its life extended – one or the other," he told Sky News. "Because if it doesn't they'll be in breach of this obligation – a new set of rules that came into place, was agreed to, in December last year and will be in place by July 1." ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-05-23/mac-mines-abandons-mining-lease-applications/11138310>

Mega mine next to Adani quietly put on hold, thousands of promised jobs in doubt

Laura Gartry, ABC, 23/05/2019

A \$6.7 billion Chinese mega mine coal project adjacent to the Adani venture in Queensland's Galilee Basin is in doubt after the company abandoned its bid for a mining lease. ...

The company will not explain why it abandoned the process, but analysts believe the project is no longer aligned with China's interests in coal and is financially "unviable" given the difficultly companies face obtaining finance for coal developments. ...

The project is owned by MacMines Austasia, a 100 per cent subsidiary of the Meinjin Energy Group, which claims to be China's top metallurgical coke producer. ...

Mr Buckley said it validated his analysis the Galilee Basin more generally was "financially unviable".

"The inability to get financial backing for a project in the Galilee is key here for MacMines," he said. ...

Adani's decision to scale down its project and planned rail line may have been a contributing factor to the viability of the China Stone venture, according to an energy researcher. ...

The China Stone project had hoped to use that rail line to transport its coal to port. ...

OIL & GAS LEAKS

<https://thewest.com.au/business/energy/global-squeezes-into-gas-shipping-ng-b881197733z>

Global squeezes into gas shipping

Peter Milne, West Australian, 15/05/2019

Maurice Brand's Global Energy Ventures wants to move the gas that LNG and pipelines cannot by simply squeezing it into pipes stacked inside a ship. ...

Currently, gas is moved to market in a pipeline or by cooling it at great expense and shipping liquefied natural gas.

Compressed natural gas gets much less fuel into a ship than LNG, but it is cheaper, simpler and does not involve burning about 8 per cent of the gas to run the LNG plant.

The idea is decades-old, but a CNG ship has never operated.

In 2017 Global bought Canadian company SeaNG and its design for a ship

with pipes stacked inside its full length and clamped in place to give the vessel added strength.

In January the American Bureau of Shipping approved the design, and Global's next step is to sign up a shipyard.

Mr Brand said the ships were best suited to delivering one to 1.5 million tonnes of gas a year up to about 2000km.

The higher volume requires one of the gas-fuelled ships to arrive every day. ...

Global is looking at shipping gas from PNG's Pasca A field operated by Twinza Oil, part-owned by the Clough family, to Australia's east coast. ...

<https://www.katherinetimes.com.au/story/6127362/fracking-go-ahead-drilling-down-into-the-detail-and-shooing-away-birds/>

Fracking go-ahead, drilling down into the detail and 'shooing away birds'

Chris McLennan, Katherine Times, 16/05/2019

The NT Government has admitted changing key rules for the fledgling Territory shale gas industry.

NT Parliament was yesterday told a key recommendation of the Pepper inquiry had been altered after discussions with the gas industry. ...

In lifting the moratorium on the industry in April last year, Chief Minister Michael Gunner said: "I want to assure all Territorians that we will faithfully implement all the recommendations of the report ..."

Two of [the 135] recommendations, the containment of toxic wastewater from the fracking process in sealed tanks, has been substantially changed in the proposed code of practice still being developed to govern development of the industry.

In that proposed code, the inquiry recommendations for sealed tanks have been changed. ...

The Pepper inquiry recommendations came from fears about toxic spills, and also to prevent local wildlife such as threatened birdlife from drinking the water.

Environment and Natural Resources Minister Eva Lawler said it was not her job to "talk to you (Opposition) about how to shoo away birds from dams".

The government said industry wanted open tanks in the dry season to allow evaporation to concentrate the wastewater so there was less quantity to transport inter-state for destruction. ...

STOP WATER MINING THE NEXT RESOURCES BATTLE



Protect Country Alliance spokesman Graeme Sawyer said it was “an appalling move” by the government.

“It shows the NT Government and the fracking industry have no respect for our unique biodiversity.

“It is yet another major move away from the 135 recommendations of the Pepper Inquiry. ...

<https://thewest.com.au/business/energy/focus-on-oil-as-buru-waits-on-fracking-ng-b881201527z>

Focus on oil as Buru waits on fracking

Peter Milne, West Australian, 17/05/2019

The future of the Kimberley’s Canning Basin could become clearer this year after Buru Energy’s busy dry season of conventional exploration and the release of the State Government’s fracking regulations. ...

Buru is now drilling the first of two wells to boost oil production at its Ungani field, and it will then drill an exploration well at nearby Yakka Munga. ...

Greens Senator Jordon Steele-John, who joined a protest outside Buru’s AGM, said the community did not want fracking.

“The only folks that want fracking are corporations like Buru and their corporate mates in Parliament,” he said.

<https://thewest.com.au/business/energy/sluggish-demand-hits-was-gas-lifeline-ng-b881202627z>

Sluggish demand for gas hits WA’s energy lifeline

Peter Milne, West Australian, 18/05/2019

The operator of the pipeline that supplies the South-West with gas from the Pilbara plans to cut tariffs for most users as it predicts a sharp drop in demand for its capacity. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/world/asia/east-timor-at-the-forefront-of-fixing-the-global-recycling-crisis-20190514-p51n90.html>

East Timor at the forefront of fixing the global recycling crisis

James Massola, SMH, 17/05/2019

The tiny nation of Timor-Leste hopes to become the world’s first “plastic neutral” country, after signing a deal to create a new chemical recycling plant with Australian technology.

The ground-breaking Catalytic Hydrothermal Reactor (or Cat-HTR) plant, which will cost about \$57.7 million to build if and when funding is secured, breaks down plastic waste into tiny

pieces and allows it to be used again to create new plastics, hard waxes or fuels.

Cat-HTR plants are already being constructed on the NSW Central Coast, in the UK, and in Canada too. ...

The plant would process about 20,000 tonnes of plastic waste each year, and potentially create about 17,000 tonnes of synthetic fuels. ...

<https://www.afr.com/business/manufacturing/gas-price-cut-required-for-gibson-island-survival-incitec-pivot-20190520-p51pac>

Gas price cut required for Gibson Island survival: Incitec Pivot

Peter Ker, AFR, 21/05/2019

A gas price cut is required for Queensland’s Gibson Island fertiliser plant to avoid closure this year, with owner Incitec Pivot urging the re-elected Morrison Government to ensure gas was “available and affordable” for Australian manufacturers. ...

Gibson’s Island’s 2019 gas bill is expected to be \$49 million higher than last year ...

Ms Johns said avoiding further gas price rises would not be enough to save Gibson Island, with Incitec needing lower gas costs to warrant extension of the plant’s life to 2022. ...

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/gas/revival-in-wa-onshore-gas-exploration-gets-pulses-racing-20190517-p51oex>

Revival in WA onshore gas exploration gets pulses racing

Angela Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 20/05/2019

The first onshore exploration wells to be drilled in Western Australia for almost two years have lifted hopes of “lookalike” gas discoveries on a par with the Waitsia field in 2017, which fuelled a \$600 million bidding war for one of the resource’s co-owners.

Drilling should start near the end of May at the West Erregulla-2 well in the North Perth basin, targeting the same rocks as at Waitsia, said David Biggs, a non-executive director of Warrego Energy, part-owner of the exploration venture. ...

Waitsia, with an estimated 844 billion cubic feet of gas, is said to be the country’s largest onshore conventional gas find for 40 years. West Erregulla could be even larger, with Warrego’s partner Strike Energy citing a best-estimate target of 916 bcf, and potentially as much as 1.296 trillion cubic feet. Strike has put an unusually high 69 per cent likeli-

hood on making a successful discovery and developing West Erregulla. ...

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/adani-win-in-queensland-prompts-call-for-narrabri-coal-seam-gas-approval/news-story/>

Adani win in Queensland prompts call for Narrabri coal seam gas approval

Edward Boyd, Daily Telegraph, 24/05/2019

Federal Resources Minister Matt Canavan is ramping up pressure on the NSW government to approve a key gas project and secure the future of the state’s reliable energy after Labor’s shock federal election loss spurred Queensland to fast-track the Adani coal mine. ...

Santos’ Narrabri gas project in northern NSW is still awaiting approval from the state government ...

Mr Canavan said NSW should approve the Santos project to help secure local jobs and affordable power prices. ...

Deputy Premier John Barilaro said the proposed project was currently undergoing a rigorous environmental assessment process which was independent of government. ...

IMPORT INSANITY



The proposed Pt Kembla gas terminal.

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/energyaustralia-eyes-500m-plus-gas-deal-with-twiggys-import-terminal-20190521-p51pg2>

EnergyAustralia eyes \$500m-plus gas deal with Twigg’s import terminal

Sarah Thompson & Anthony Macdonald, AFR, 21/05/2019

EnergyAustralia is poised to sign a gas purchase deal worth \$500 million or more with the Andrew Forrest-backed Port Kembla LNG import terminal in what looks set to be the first confirmed customer for the controversial project.

The country’s No.3 power and gas retailer had been clear it could consider purchasing imported gas to supplement its own supplies to customers and for a proposed expansion of gas-fired power generation in NSW.

Now it is understood to be in the final stages of agreeing a five-year deal for

at least 10 petajoules a year of gas, with deliveries potentially due to start in 2021. Woodside Petroleum is understood to be lined up to supply LNG to the \$250 million terminal, while BP may also be involved, according to a source.

Australian Industrial Energy's Port Kembla gas terminal is aiming to lock in customers over the next few weeks to give the final go-ahead on construction of the \$250 million project, which would import up to 100 petajoules a year of gas for the overstretched east coast market, where prices have been soaring. ...

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/solar-energy/oil-majors-prepare-to-dominate-solar-landscape-20190521-p51pk9>

Oil majors prepare to dominate solar landscape

Angela Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 22/05/2019

International oil majors are manoeuvring into what could become a dominant position in Australia's fast-growing renewable energy and storage sector, according to the global head of renewables at consultancy Rystad Energy.

They are driven by the plunge in generation costs, the need to green up their portfolios and the potential to save on gas supplies, Gero Farruggio said. ...

The trend will not be derailed by the return of the Coalition government, which has no policy framework for renewables after 2020, he said.

"These are global companies playing on a global stage," Mr Farruggio said. "The trend towards reducing emissions will continue despite this election result." ...

CLIMATE CRISIS

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/may/18/climate-crisis-heat-is-on-global-heating-four-degrees-2100-change-way-we-live>

The heat is on over the climate crisis. Only radical measures will work

Gaia Vince, The Guardian, 19/05/2019

Experts agree that global heating of 4C by 2100 is a real possibility. The effects of such a rise will be extreme and require a drastic shift in the way we live

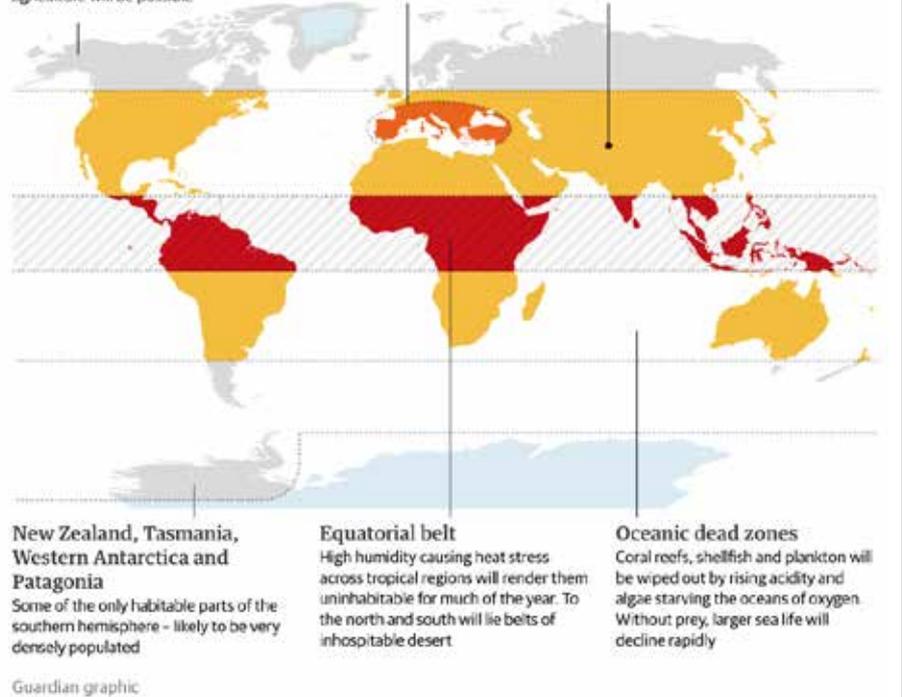
Drowned cities; stagnant seas; intolerable heatwaves; entire nations uninhabitable... and more than 11 billion humans. A four-degree-warmer world is the stuff of nightmares and yet that's where we're heading in just decades. ...

A 4C rise in global average temperatures would force humans away from equatorial regions

Canada, Siberia, Scandinavia, and Alaska
The vast majority of humanity will live in high-latitude areas, where agriculture will be possible

Southern Europe
Saharan deserts will expand into southern and central Europe

Hindu Kush, Karakoram and Himalayas
Two-thirds of the glaciers that feed many of Asia's rivers will be lost



The good news is that humans won't become extinct – the species can survive with just a few hundred individuals; the bad news is, we risk great loss of life and perhaps the end of our civilisations. ...

[But we may] abandon huge tracts of the globe and moving Earth's human population to the high latitudes: Canada, Siberia, Scandinavia, parts of Greenland, Patagonia, Tasmania, New Zealand and perhaps newly ice-free parts of the western Antarctic coast. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/may/20/bp-headquarters-in-london-blockaded-by-greenpeace>

BP headquarters in London blockaded by Greenpeace

Matthew Weaver, The Guardian, 20/05/2019

Greenpeace activists have blockaded all entrances to the BP headquarters in London, demanding an end to all new oil and gas exploration.

The campaigners arrived at 3am on Monday and encased themselves in heavy containers before the oil company's annual general meeting on Tuesday.

The containers, each weighing several tonnes, are being used to blockade all five entrances to prevent staff from entering BP's offices in St James's Square. ...

Greenpeace said it was carrying out the action because BP was behaving as if the climate emergency was not happening. ...

[Activist] Paul Morozzo said: "We're shutting down BP's HQ because business as usual is just not an option. BP is fuelling a climate emergency that threatens millions of lives and the future of the living world. The science is clear: we must stop searching for new oil and gas if we want a liveable planet. BP must clean up or clear out." ...

Greenpeace claims BP is outspending other oil giants on lobbying campaigns against climate action and spent \$16bn (£12.6bn) adding to its oil and gas reserves in 2018. It said only \$500m (£392.8m) was invested in alternatives to fossil fuels. ...

<https://www.crikey.com.au/2019/05/22/stopping-adani-affordable-renewable-energy/>

Stopping Adani won't stop climate change

Matthew Warren, Crikey, 22/05/2019

One of the stark realities to emerge from the federal election result is that the broad majority of Australians are still not convinced of the importance of effective action on climate change.

A decade of drought and emissions trading, renewables schemes and ris-

ing power prices has left them aware, but not engaged. When faced with a suite of less existential issues on the weekend, climate change was not decisive. When pushed, most Australians would probably like governments to just make the problem go away. ...

The show around Adani is just smoke and mirrors; the future of the mine is largely irrelevant to the real debate on energy policy and climate change in Australia ...

Demand for coal is determined not by the number of mines, but by the demands of power stations. Owners of these power stations source coal domestically and globally. They will continue to burn coal at exactly the same rate regardless of whether the Adani mine proceeds or not.

You don't reduce emissions by banning a coal mine, you reduce them by providing a credible and affordable way of making electricity that can replace coal. ...

• *Matthew Warren is the author of Blackout – how is energy-rich Australia running out of electricity? published by Affirm Press.*

FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.heraldsun.com.au/blogs/andrew-bolt/they-called-it-a-global-warming-election-it-was-they-lost/news-story/7fe989403a83b1647fd0305ea3507a8f>

They called it a global warming election. It was. They lost

Andrew Bolt, Herald Sun, 18/05/2019

In Queensland, where Labor seemed set to stop the giant Adani coal project, Labor went from picking up an expected three or four seats to losing three instead. (Adani will now almost certainly proceed. The Queensland Labor Government will be too scared to keep blocking it now. The massive anti-Adani protests have backfired.) ...

This election has changed the climate. But it's the intellectual climate that's changed.

Labor, for one, will have its confidence in its global warming policies and gurus shattered. Brilliant.

<https://www.standard.net.au/story/6132006/adani-issue-hurt-labor-in-qld-canavan/?cs=10264>

Adani issue hurt Labor in Qld: Canavan

Warren Barnsley, AAP/Worrambool Standard, 19/05/2019

A "hi-vis revolution" defeated Labor in parts of Queensland where Adani's proposed coal mine was the biggest issue, Nationals senator Matt Canavan says. ...

Senator Canavan – also the federal minister for resources and northern Australia – said Adani was "no doubt" the biggest issue in the state's central and northern regions, blaming the state Labor government for failing to hasten approvals. ...

"It's a high-vis revolution.

"For too long, despite the fact miners wear the brightest shirts of anyone, they've been invisible to the Australian Labor Party." ...

[Bob] Brown rejected claims his convoy through central Queensland backfired, noting the swing to the LNP was national, not just across central Queensland. ...

Mr Brown said that "greed won" over climate action in the federal election.

"People went for the money," Mr Brown said. "It just shows that dollars will defeat morality at the ballot box."

<https://www.theage.com.au/federal-election-2019/a-disastrous-campaign-getup-and-unions-claim-just-two-seats-despite-record-spend-20190519-p51oyx.html?>

'A disastrous campaign': GetUp and unions claim just two seats despite record spend

Max Koslowski & Dana McCauley, The Age, 19/05/2019

A massive campaign by GetUp and the union movement has failed to dislodge tens of government MPs who had been targeted in a "hit list", raising questions over the future of third party activist groups in election campaigns.

Both those inside the third party campaigns and their opponents admit the movement failed to persuade those most concerned about the cost of living and alienated voters in Queensland by prioritising climate change policy.

GetUp claimed just one victory from its seven-electorate hit list - independent Zali Steggall defeated former prime minister Tony Abbott in the Sydney seat of Warringah ...

<https://www.theage.com.au/federal-election-2019/energy-industry-warns-morrison-against-reviving-power-big-sticks-20190519-p51ox4.html>

Energy industry warns Morrison against reviving power 'big sticks'

Cole Latimer, The Age, 20/05/2019

The Coalition win in the weekend's election has raised industry concerns that the Scott Morrison government will return to its 'big stick' legislative agenda to rein in power prices. ...

Prior to the election the Morrison government had controversially proposed interventionist new rules giving it the ability to break-up power companies found to be behaving poorly in the market.

The government craft its so-called 'big stick' policies in an attempt to reduce historically high power prices after dumping its combined energy and climate change policy ...

An electricity retailer, who preferred to remain unnamed, said after the Coalition lost members agitating against climate change policy the path forward should regain some sensibility.

"The fact that Tony Abbott lost his seat of Warringah [against independent Zali Steggall] should send a message that gives them a fright to prevent them from moving too far to the right and supporting unsustainable energy and climate policies," he said. ...

<https://www.afr.com/news/politics/national/the-elections-uncomfortable-truths-20190519-p51oxh>

The election's uncomfortable truths

Aaron Patrick, AFR, 20/05/2019

Scott Morrison's victory did more than secure his place in political history.

The upset demonstrated an uncomfortable truth for many in the Australian elite about the nature of their society.

The distinct options given to voters, and the definitive choice they made, revealed the innate conservatism of the Australian middle and working classes. ...

They believe in climate change, but aren't certain closing coal and gas power stations will make electricity cheaper. ...

On Saturday, a solid, heavily tattooed man approached Taylor at a polling booth. The ex-McKinsey management consultant and Rhodes Scholar braced himself for criticism from a Labor voter.

Instead, the man asked for a how-to-vote card. He told Taylor he had seen an ad in his Facebook feed about Taylor's love of his Toyota HiLux ute, and Labor's plan for electric vehicles, and wanted to vote Liberal. ...

Yet Queensland and Western Australia's rejection of Labor on Saturday suggests that the strong moral case for climate action needs to be accompanied by an honest explanation of how society will manage and pay for the complicated industrial transition.

There hasn't been a thorough national debate about the economic benefits and costs of phasing out coal and gas, two of Australia's biggest exports. ...

Albanese is a consistent and loud supporter of the Adani coal mine, and carries a working-class authenticity that Shorten tried but could never attain. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/may/20/dont-despair-about-the-climate-emergency-coal-is-not-the-future>

Don't despair about the climate emergency. Coal is not the future

Frank Jotzo, The Guardian, 20/05/2019

It's going to be hard for those who care about and work on climate change but we must dust ourselves off, because neither despair nor emigrating to New Zealand will help solve the mess Australia's climate policy is in. ...

The near term looks grim. The Coalition government will feel locked into its stance against climate action, even if many smart heads in government will understand that a do-nothing approach is unwise. The Labor party might feel that its progressive stance on climate change hurt it. Tax policy might have swung the election, but climate change clearly played a role.

But climate policy will not be stuck there, even if it is a slow and hard road. There are strong international pressures, most of the Australian business community does not want the economy stuck in the past, and the states will not accept a vacuum on climate and energy policy. ...

If the do-nothing approach prevails, the national electricity market will continue to be in a mess. More coal power stations will exit suddenly when old equipment fails. Replacement investment in renewables and storage will not be ready, causing power prices to shoot up like they did after the closure of Hazelwood. Without a low-carbon roadmap, money spent ensuring reliability of the grid will not be what is needed long term.

The federal government may again be tempted to subsidise the refurbishment of old coal plants, and to lavish coal subsidies on Queensland. The incumbent energy industries will see their profits will remain high. Consumers, energy-using businesses and taxpayers will pay the bill, and emissions will be unnecessarily high.

With effective policy, things could be very different. Australia could meet

practically all of its energy use from solar and wind power. We could use green electricity and renewables-based hydrogen in industry and in transport. We could build up an industry that produces green hydrogen, ammonia, aluminium and steel for export to countries who are less fortunate than Australia in their endowment with renewable energy opportunities. Those industries could grow larger than the coal and gas industry now is. They could last indefinitely and help the world decarbonise. ...

• *Frank Jotzo is the director of the Centre for Climate Economics and Policy at the Australian National University*

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/money/finance-news/2019/05/19/oil-lobby-climate-change-policy/>

How oil companies bought Australia's climate policies

Killian Plastow, New Daily, 20/05/2019

Oil and gas companies claiming to support climate change reform initiatives are simultaneously spending billions to stop tougher laws.

And it appears to be working.

The five largest global oil companies – ExxonMobil, Shell, Chevron, BP, and Total – have spent a combined \$US1 billion (\$1.44 billion) on “misleading climate-related branding and lobbying” in the three years since the Paris Agreement was signed, according to research from InfluenceMap.

It's money well spent for the companies too, according to Melbourne University politics lecturer George Rennie, whose research into the effectiveness of lobby groups suggests that in Australia, oil and gas companies “get their way a lot of the time”, as a direct result of their lobbying efforts. ...

In Australia, the beneficiary of this money is the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association (APPEA), which InfluenceMap said is “opposed” to numerous “achievable” climate policy initiatives.

InfluenceMap estimates that APPEA spends \$US3 million (\$4.34 million) annually on these lobbying efforts, but the return on investment (ROI) is likely much higher – a study in the US that found companies can receive a return as high as \$US220 (\$317.7) per \$US1 (\$1.44) spent on lobbying.

ROI for Australian lobbying dollars is likely to be similar to the US experience, Mr Rennie said.

Dr Adam Lucas, a senior lecturer in science and technology studies with

the University of Wollongong, said oil lobbying has been “clearly very effective” in Australia.

“This [research] just confirms what a lot of us already knew and have already been saying.”

Responding to questions from The New Daily, APPEA spokesperson Matthew Doman said the lobby group was in favour of climate action including a carbon price, and rejected InfluenceMap's report. ...

Dr Lucas disagreed that APPEA genuinely supports climate change policy development, saying the claim “doesn't stack up at all. They say one thing publicly and then do another thing behind closed doors.” ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/look-after-all-of-queensland-not-just-brisbane-qrcs-ultimatum-to-palszczuk-government/news-story/670ed5697c6356b26c1c4f2ee707325a>

'Look after all of Queensland, not just Brisbane', QRC's ultimatum to Palszczuk government

Sarah Vogler, Courier-Mail, 20/05/2019

Queensland's peak mining lobby has seized on Labor's drubbing in the state on Saturday to call for the Palaszczuk Government to immediately rule out increasing royalties in next month's State Budget, insisting the move would be a “dagger to the heart” of regional Queensland.

Queensland Resources Council CEO Ian Macfarlane said the mining sector had felt “under siege” from the State Government for the last 18 months. ...

“Any move by the Palaszczuk Government to make mining in Queensland more difficult by raising royalties or putting overly restrictive regulations in place will be met with job losses and the people of regional Queensland are saying no more job losses.” ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/adani-ceo-lucas-dow-accuses-premier-of-not-listening-to-regional-voters/news-story/875d9a7004d3dd38185819e093f6f697>

Adani CEO Lucas Dow accuses Premier of not listening to regional voters

Domanii Cameron, Courier-Mail, 20/05/2019

Adani has accused the Premier and Deputy Premier of having a tin ear to their voters, heaping further pressure on the Palaszczuk Government to approve its controversial coal mine.

In a scathing statement – the first since Saturday's shock election result – Adani Mining CEO Lucas Dow has slammed the Government, claiming it was refusing to hear the concerns of people in regional towns. ...

“Queenslanders are sick of people telling them that they should be embarrassed and ashamed of what they do, when they should be heralded for working to the highest environmental standards and bringing prosperity to the nation.” ...

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/what-to-expect-from-coalition-coal-coal-and-a-battle-over-neg-89989/>

What to expect from Coalition: Coal, coal, coal and a battle over NEG

Michael Mazengarb, Renew Economy, 20/05/2019

So, with the return of the Morrison government with a small majority within Parliament, what can we expect over the next three years for climate and energy policy?

The answer is not much, asides from a very much fortified coal lobby. ...

Meanwhile the Coalition will pursue the commissioning of the Adani Carmichael Coal Mine with renewed enthusiasm.

Many of the Queensland pro-coal acolytes received significant boosts in their support on the weekend. This includes George Christensen (two party preferred vote up 11.3%), Michelle Landry (up 10.7%) and Keith Pitt (up 6%) – who all campaigned in support of the Adani Mine. ...

The Stop Adani campaign failed to gain sufficient traction with swing voters and by the time the next federal election rolls around, Matt Canavan and Co. will have done all they can to ensure the mine is well underway. ...

The Queensland Labor government will now also face pressure to expedite the approval process for the Adani Carmichael Coal Mine. ...

The Coalition will push forward with an agenda focused on developing coal resources throughout northern Australia. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/may/20/coal-industry-urges-re-elected-morrison-government-to-build-new-coal-plants>

Coal industry urges re-elected Morrison government to build new coal plants

Ben Smees, The Guardian, 20/05/2019

The coal industry has begun lobbying the re-elected Morrison government to support hardline positions, including building new coal-fired power stations and weakening approvals processes for new mines.

The Coal Council of Australia released a statement on Sunday welcoming the

election result, praising the Coalition for supporting coal, and calling on Labor to reverse many of its climate-focused policies towards the fossil fuel. ...

The coal council is a hardline industry group, established earlier this year amid a split among members of the Minerals Council of Australia about climate policy.

The group is opposed to “transition” policies designed to assist miners and coal communities to weather a predicted slowdown in coal exports; instead clinging to the most optimistic projections that also assume the world fails dramatically to meet its Paris climate targets. ...

Despite the election result, coal will likely remain a vexing issue where policies designed to win regional votes could also cost support in inner-city electorates. Research by the Queensland Resources Council, leaked to the Australia Institute in the days before the election, shows the sector is “nearing crisis” and that coal has created a negative perception. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/may/20/arthur-sinodinos-urges-liberals-to-use-renewables-to-boost-environmental-credentials>

Arthur Sinodinos urges Liberals to use renewables to boost environmental credentials

Paul Karp, The Guardian, 20/05/2019

Arthur Sinodinos has warned that the Liberal party should not stand in the way of renewables, suggesting the government should use a changing energy market to bolster its environmental credentials.

Anticipating a fresh internal battle over energy policy after the Liberal-National party’s success in Queensland, the Liberal senator suggested the government should recast itself as the best manager of the grid and “take advantage” of the falling cost of renewables to ensure “greater reliability, lower cost and lower greenhouse gas footprint”. ...

Sinodinos argued the transition is “already under way with record investment in renewables” leaving the government the challenge of “[making] sure the electricity generation system can accommodate that while maintaining reliability”. ...

In March, Scott Morrison attempted to mollify rebel Queenslanders by promising to examine whether a new coal-fired plant was needed in north Queensland.

He also signed off on a shortlist for the electricity underwriting scheme that includes “one very small” coal project in New South Wales proposed by coal baron and LNP donor Trevor St Baker.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/labor-flayed-over-coal-policy-as-shares-in-coal-miners-get-postelection-lift/news-story/>

Labor flayed over coal policy as shares in coal miners get post-election lift

David Rogers & Charlie Peel, The Australian, 20/05/2019

The coal industry and its investors have been quick to welcome the Morrison government back into power.

Coal Council of Australia chief executive Greg Evans described the government as a “consistent supporter of the sector”.

“Resources Minister Matt Canavan has been an active and very effective supporter of the coal sector and his advocacy has engendered trust throughout the coal regions,” he said. ...

The development of new mines and high efficiency, low emission (HELE) coal plants must now be expedited, Mr Evans said.

Mr Evans also used the election result to attack Queensland’s state Labor government over its handling of Adani’s Carmichael coal mine. ...

The plan also features a \$10 million feasibility study into ways to meet the energy needs of heavy industry in north and central Queensland, including a coal-fired power plant at Collinsville.

Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack says the power plant would supply Gladstone, which is a “very big user of power”. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/resources-minister-matt-canavan-helped-secure-big-win-on-coal-coast/news-story/>

Resources Minister Matt Canavan helped secure big win on coal coast

Madura McCormack, Townsville Bulletin, 21/05/2019

A strong swing to the Coalition in North and Central Queensland has “earned” Resources Minister Matt Canavan reappointment in the next cabinet, with a consistent pointed message on support for the coal industry considered a major part of the win within party circles. ...

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/national/2019/05/20/scott-morrison-more-miracles-needed/>

Scott Morrison will need a few more of his miracles

Paul Bongiorno, New Daily, 21/05/2019

Just as well Scott Morrison believes in miracles, because any close analysis of the key claims of his “better economic managers” campaign show them to be built on very shaky foundations. ...

The other challenge will be holding the government together in the face of a slim majority. While Tony Abbott is now out of the Parliament, his climate-change-denying allies are still there, with the Queenslanders emboldened by their success.

Urban Liberal moderates haven't missed the climate/energy message from voters in the party's heartland seats in Sydney and Melbourne. One source says they are not prepared this time to allow the likes of Queensland Nationals coal champion George Christensen to call all the shots. ...

A reality check will be the delivery of lower electricity prices which has proved elusive in the past six years of incumbency. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/opinion/state-mps-get-call-to-heed-north-queenslands-voice/news-story/e7fd60cf70ad85483fe4a332a95fcd4>

State MPs get call to heed North Queensland's voice

Jenna Cairney, Townsville Bulletin, 21/05/2019

There is a growing divide between the North and south of this state and there is no starker example of this democratic deficit than the make-up of Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk's Cabinet. ...

[Her] Government spends \$4.4 billion of royalties raised from our regional mines and resources each year. Our farmers produce \$20 billion in output annually, the Great Barrier Reef is valued at \$56 billion and tourism is worth \$25 billion to the state. ...

Today the *Bulletin* is making a stand alongside the editors of our sister papers, the *Mackay Daily Mercury* and the *Rockhampton Morning Bulletin*. ...

Queensland needs a Minister for North Queensland. ...

The voting public sent a powerful message to the Labor Party at the weekend. Queenslanders said they would not be force-fed irrelevant policy from arrogant southern masters.

I

f the Queensland Government doesn't want a repeat performance in 18 months' time, it will heed our call, do some serious soul-searching and start listening rather than dictating to the North.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/may/21/north-queensland-is-just-at-the-sharp-end-of-whats-happening-across-australia>

North Queensland is just at the sharp end of what's happening across Australia

Jason Wilson, The Guardian, 21/05/2019

There clearly is something quite specific going on in north Queensland. It's obviously partly related to the mine, which local media obsessively highlighted as the only real issue. ...

Some – from the Coalition and Labor camps – have pointed to the Stop Adani convoy, organised by the Bob Brown Foundation, as a direct cause of this heavily depressed Labor vote.

This is a convenient but unsatisfying explanation that leads us directly to a dead end. If Labor's electoral prospects are this dependent on Bob Brown no longer doing the kind of thing that Bob Brown has always done, it is more fragile and hapless than even I could have imagined. ...

One thing that has been so far underplayed is News Corp's newspaper monopoly throughout the region.

Those newspapers have mounted a sustained propaganda campaign in favour of the new mine. On the reef coast they have downplayed the damage to the Great Barrier Reef owing to the climate crisis.

And if anyone can be blamed for turning Bob Brown's visit into a harbinger of doom, it's these papers.

The virtual collapse of other regional news media means that News has an outsized agenda-setting role in the area. This resembles an exacerbated version of News's national position, which became a subject of broader debate during the campaign.

News's malign influence is fractal – it distorts debate at the local level just as surely as at the national level. ...

Australia's present and its history ... from a certain distance has been a series of extractive land grabs, starting with the foundational, violent dispossession of Indigenous people, continuing through immigration exclusion, and through to the present of blind, heedless and reckless coalmining. ...

There's a real question after this election as to whether Australia knows any other way to be.

The country has foundered for so long on the issue of the climate emergency because no one has a clear, politically salient vision for a post-extractive, post-carbon, post-colonial economy. ...

It is high time to stop pretending, for example, that people vote for One Nation out of any other sentiment than racism; or that extractive industries have not been connected with colonialism, environmental destruction and racism from the beginning; or that coalmines are not directly connected with the destruction of the Great Barrier Reef, which is happening under north Queenslanders' noses. ...

Perhaps our political system as it's now constituted will never frame an adequate response to the climate crisis. And elections probably cannot save us in the absence of popular pressure, resilience and creativity. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/lnp-will-use-record-win-to-push-for-coal/news-story/8be770cdecb567fc398ba4710ddcfc4e>

LNP will use record win to push for coal

Matthew Killoran, Courier-Mail, 22/05/2019

An emboldened Queensland LNP team will use its growing numbers and influence to push for a “job creating” coal-fired power station to be built in north Queensland.

There is also talk that Member for Capricornia Michelle Landry, who was returned with the second biggest swing in the state, should be promoted from assistant minister to minister amid the looming reshuffle. ...

Northern MPs are saying the Queensland result had given a mandate for the green light to be given to commissioning the Collinsville clean coal-fired power station to be built. ...

Resources and Northern Australia Minister Matt Canavan will push for the Collinsville power station, saying work should begin on the business case as a “key priority” of the re-elected Morrison Government.

“We've made great progress towards a coal-fired power station,” he said.

“It will be a key priority for me to progress the study we have commissioned and working up a business case for the Collinsville station.” ...

Member for Dawson George Christensen said the results in Herbert, Dawson, Capricornia and Flynn were

News this week ... from previous page

testament that people wanted the government to back coal and leverage it for jobs and cheaper power. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/companies/liddell-must-be-extended-or-replaced-minister-warns-power-companies-20190522-p51q5g.html>

Liddell must be 'extended or replaced': Minister warns power companies

Nick Toscano, SMH, 22/05/2019

The federal government has swiftly renewed its hardline approach to the energy sector, threatening tough action against power retailers who fail to ensure they have adequate supply for households they are serving. ...

Energy Minister Angus Taylor warned on Wednesday that the government was prepared to utilise new laws to ensure reliable power supply and prevent blackouts and brownouts. ...

"That means Liddell will either have to be replaced or extended – its life extended – one or the other," he told Sky News. ...

Mr Taylor said the federal government would be closely monitoring energy retailers' responses to the looming closure of Liddell, warning there would be "serious penalties incurred if it's not done right". ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/commentis-free/2019/may/23/its-easy-to-dismiss-queenslanders-as-coal-addicted-bogans-but-its-more-complex-than-that>

It's easy to dismiss Queenslanders as coal-addicted bogans, but it's more complex than that

Amanda Cahill, The Guardian, 24/05/2019

After the shocking .. federal election ... it didn't take long for hashtags such as #Quexit and #MakeThemLeave to start trending on social media, calling for Queensland to be kicked out of Australia.

Whether people were rooting for Labor for climate-related reasons or otherwise, many unleashed their anger on regional electorates that delivered huge swings away from Labor, and that are home to some of Australia's largest coal mines.

But while it is easy to dismiss these voters as ill-informed, coal-addicted bogans who don't care about the climate crisis, the reality behind the political and economic priorities of Australia's coal communities is more complex. ...

The only way we're going to effectively deliver the two seemingly competing objectives of strong climate action and secure livelihoods is to deepen our engagement with regional communities – not just coal workers, but also farmers, local business owners and First Nations groups. ...

• *Dr Amanda Cahill is the chief executive of the Next Economy and is an associate at the University of Queensland and the Sydney Policy Lab*

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/we-have-lost-australia-for-now-warns-climate-scientist-in-wake-of-election-22455/>

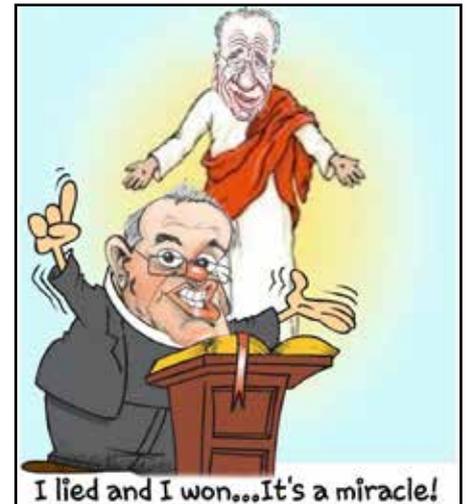
'We have lost Australia for now,' warns climate scientist in wake of election

Joe Romm, Renew Economy, 23/04/2019

The unexpected victory of conservatives in Australia's election last Saturday is bad news for the future of global climate action, warn climate experts. ...

"Australians elected someone who once brought a lump of coal into Parliament urging us to dismiss the warnings from climate scientists, and to dig up more coal instead," Professor Stephan Lewandowsky, an Australian cognitive scientist, told *ThinkProgress* in an email.

"There is little doubt that his government will do precisely that.



A cartoon doing the rounds on Facebook. Source: Unknown

"The fossil fueled Murdoch media empire ... saturated the country with dishonest right-wing campaign propaganda" working with a few "petrostates including Saudi Arabia, Russia, Trump's America, and now Australia." ...

Rupert Murdoch's grip on the Australian media – and his support of climate disinformation around the world – led one Australian scientist to write in 2011: "The Murdoch media empire has cost humanity perhaps one or two decades of time in the battle against climate change."

In re-electing Morrison, a long-time opponent of climate action, Murdoch and his allies have triumphed again.

And so "we must redouble our efforts to make sure that the rest of the world works even harder to act on climate," said Mann. "The stakes are too great to simply give up."

FFB

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

Wangan Jagalingou Traditional Owners
Aboriginal Corporation

BSB: 034-003
Account number: 278038

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



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



SIGN UP for your FREE subscription
Past issues available to download

SAVING THE LAND, AIR AND WATER
FOR THE KIDDIES

www.knitting-nannas.com

