



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 2:26 • 7 JUNE 2019

Adani alleged to be illegally clearing Carmichael site

Coast and Country has released new damning evidence showing unlawful vegetation clearing at the Adani Carmichael Coal Mine site.

“The satellite and aerial imagery clearly show Adani has once again breached its environmental approval, committing offences under Queensland law”, said Derec Davies of Coast and Country.

“In late March 2019 Adani started clearing vegetation in potential Black-throated Finch habitat. They bulldozed roughly 27,000 square metres of vegetation prior to approval. Adani then posted the illegal act on Facebook.”

Adani has pattern of non-compliance

“This is part of a pattern of non-compliance at the mine site and at other locations operated by Adani, including at its Abbot Point Port. It appears Adani is a repeat offender and can’t be trusted to protect Queensland water and natural environment”.

Adani has disturbed the mine site without approval, clearing trees and vegetation which includes potential Black-throated Finch habitat to create:

- 9 significant sites for drill pads
- 3 larger sites which could be used for automated drilling machines, and
- 8 new mine site roads

“It is time for Queensland Environment Minister Enoch to put the brakes on Adani. Fast tracking the Adani



Disturbance site – Pad 2. The image was taken between April – May 2019 showing a cleared vegetation site. The image also displays site activities including a drilling rig, driller sumps, and vegetation storage. Photo: Coast and Country

coal mine approval is not good for Queensland, and it undermines the integrity and separation of the public service”, said Davies.

“This is the second breach of environmental law in 12 months, and should provide the Queensland government with significant cause for concern. Coast and Country calls on the Department of Environment and Science to investigate this issue, and to execute an enforcement action to limit further environmental harm. Adani, just like any other company or resident of Queensland, must comply with Queensland laws.

Jo-Anne Bragg, a solicitor from the Environmental Defender’s Office, is act-

ing for Coast and Country. She claims the footage and imagery shows Adani is breaching its environmental authority by performing works deemed stage two activities.

Work done in absence of approvals

“I’ve read Adani’s environmental authority and I’ve read the definition of stage two site works. All of this work is clearly stage two site work, which they should not be doing in the absence of their approvals,” Ms Bragg said.

“By contrast, stage one work is maintaining existing roads, it’s minor works [and] this is not what’s being shown by the satellite imagery.”

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• P2: Galilee coal a dud bet for Qld

• P3: Report spells out climate risk to security

• P4: Gascos continue farmland invasion

Galilee thermal coal a dud bet for Qld

By Tim Buckley, IEEFA

Thermal coal used for electricity provides only 13% of royalties to Queensland's budget compared to coking coal used for steel manufacturing – which provides 87% in royalties, a new IEEFA report finds.

The report, *Conflating Queensland's Coking and Thermal Coal Industries: Thermal coal adds little to Queensland's state budget* finds that coking coal export royalties contribute seven times more than thermal coal royalties to the Queensland budget, estimated at \$3,626m versus just \$538m from export thermal coal.

Author Tim Buckley, Director of Energy Finance Studies IEEFA says in comparison, existing and new coking coal mines, like the Olive Downs coking coal mine near Moranbah approved two weeks ago, will boost Queensland's coffers with an extra \$600m annually – more than the total contribution of thermal coal.

“Coking coal and thermal coal supply entirely different industries. They have very different volume trajectories going forward and have drastically different values.

“Today, exported coking coal provides a significant 87% of Queensland's royalties from coal, with just 13% provided by thermal coal.”

“Coking coal is valued by the market at three times as much per tonne as Queensland's thermal coal, and boosted by the progressive royalty rates already in place, coking coal pays four times the royalties of thermal coal per tonne.”

IEEFA notes burning coal is still the number one cause of global warming, but renewable alternatives are fast replacing thermal coal, while technologies to replace coking coal are yet to be commercialised.

Coking coal is going to be around for decades yet, while thermal coal, which peaked back in 2014, is being progressively replaced by alternative technologies and is forecast for terminal decline by 2050.

“Simply, coking coal and thermal coal are like chalk and cheese, providing vastly different numbers of jobs, value and royalty returns to the people of Queensland,” says Mr Buckley.

Coking vs Thermal Coal Royalties to the Queensland Government

Coking coal

A\$3.626 billion



Thermal coal

A\$0.538 billion



Sources: DFAT and IEEFA estimates for 2018 calendar year

“The Federal Resources Minister Matt Canavan, the Queensland Resources Council, and Adani are deliberately confusing people by combining coking and thermal coal, when they are completely different products offering completely different benefits to Queenslanders.

“The people of Queensland need to know the truth when their government is being pressured to make a decision about approving Adani's proposed high ash, low energy thermal coal mine for so little return to the State.

Time for transition from thermal coal

“In this carbon constrained world, instead of approving new thermal coal mines, the Queensland government needs to be strategic and manage the transition out of thermal coal.

“This buys time for the state to best leverage the strategic value and economic support of the coking coal sector even as Queensland pivots to 50% renewables by 2030.”

Queensland already has numerous world-leading renewable projects like Genex Power's 250 megawatt (MW) pumped hydro storage and solar, Sun Metals' integrated 125MW solar powered zinc refinery, Northern Oil's Gladstone hydrogen power plant pilot, Ratch's A\$380m 180MW Mount Emerald Wind Farm, and AGL's 453MW Coopers Gap Wind Farm.

Two weeks ago, the Queensland government approved the Olive Downs 15Mtpa coking coal mine near Moranbah in Queensland's Bowen Basin,

with A\$4bn of annual revenues. This mine leverages existing infrastructure and will provide jobs and royalties without any royalty holiday period.

In contrast, the proposed Adani Carmichael mine will dig up low energy, high ash thermal coal at one quarter of the royalties and provide annual revenues of some A\$725m, a fifth of that created by Olive Downs.

IEEFA notes regional Queensland's transition risk is a much more manageable task compared with the predominantly thermal coal industry of New South Wales' Hunter Valley.

“The Queensland government looks likely to approve a thermal coal mine which might employ 500 people on-going, and following a decade of zero royalties, will only provide one quarter of the royalties per tonne relative to Queensland's high value coking mines, and raises Queensland's exposure to a low value product that is well past its peak and is now in slow, terminal decline,” says Mr Buckley.

“Exploiting the proposed Galilee Basin for thermal coal is a dud bet for Queenslanders.

“Far better to invest in strong, growing industries of the future to the sustainable benefit of regional Queensland.”

• **Download the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis report here:**

<http://ieefa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Conflating-Queenslands-Coking-and-Thermal-Coal-Industries-June-2019.pdf>

Report examines security risk of climate change

By Admiral Chris Barrie, AC RAN Retired

In 2017-18, the Australian Senate inquired into the implications of climate change for Australia's national security.

The Inquiry found that climate change is “a current and existential national security risk”, one that “threatens the premature extinction of Earth- originating intelligent life or the permanent and drastic destruction of its potential for desirable future development”.

I told the Inquiry that, after nuclear war, human-induced global warming is the greatest threat to human life on the planet. Today's 7.5 billion human beings are already the most predatory species that ever existed, yet the global population has yet to peak and may reach 10 billion people, with dire implications absent a fundamental change in human behaviour.

The report *What Lies Beneath* and associated policy paper look at the existential climate-related security risk through a scenario set thirty years into the future.

David Spratt and Ian Dunlop have laid bare the unvarnished truth about the desperate situation humans, and our planet, are in, painting a disturbing picture of the real possibility that human life on earth may be on the way to extinction, in the most horrible way.

In Australia recently we have seen and heard signals about the growing realisation of the seriousness of our plight.

For example, young women speak of their decisions to not have children, and climate scientists admitting to depression as they consider the “inevitable” nature of a doomsday future and turn towards thinking more about family and relocation to “safer” places, rather than working on more research.

Civil disobedience increases

Stronger signals still are coming from increasing civil disobedience, for example over the opening up of the Galilee Basin coal deposits and deepwater oil exploration in the Great Australian Bight, with the suicidal increase in carbon emissions they imply. And the outrage of schoolchildren over their parent's irresponsibility in refusing to act on climate change.

As my colleague Professor Will Steffen has said of the climate challenge:

“It's not a technological or a scientific problem, it's a question of humanities' socio-political values... We need a social tipping point that flips our thinking before we reach a tipping point in the climate system.”

A doomsday future is not inevitable! But without immediate drastic action our prospects are poor. We must act collectively. We need strong, determined leadership in government, in business and in our communities to ensure a sustainable future for humankind.

In particular, our intelligence and security services have a vital role to play, and a fiduciary responsibility, in accepting this existential climate threat, and the need for a fundamentally different approach to its risk management, as central to their considerations and their advice to government.

The implications far outweigh conventional geopolitical threats.

I commend this policy paper to you.

• *Admiral Chris Barrie, AC RAN Retired, is Honorary Professor, Strategic & Defence Studies Centre, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, Australian National University, Canberra. He is a member of the Global Military Advisory Council on Climate Change and was Chief of the Australian Defence Force from 1998 to 2002.*

• **Download the report here:**

<https://www.breakthroughonline.org.au/whatliesbeneath>



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Adani complains about ABC story

This week, Media Watch revealed that Adani complained to the ABC in advance of a story about the financial viability of its mine. And the story was spiked.

Isobel Roe, a young award-winning journalist in Brisbane, was working on a story for Saturday AM, based on an opinion piece in the *Sydney Morning Herald* by David Fickling. Fickling said the numbers on Adani simply don't add up, and that comparable projects like Glencore's Wandoan have been mothballed for years.

But the story never made it to air.

Fickling was interviewed by the ABC on the afternoon of Friday, 24th of May. Just over an hour later, at 4.20pm, Adani says Roe contacted them for comment. Not long after that, at 5.50pm, the producer of Saturday AM, Thomas Oriti, told ABC staff he was killing the story.

An Adani spokesperson told Media Watch that she raised concerns with ABC management that the story contained inaccuracies and was potentially biased. Adani says it told the reporter she should talk to a more mining-friendly analyst.

When she asked them to suggest someone, Adani's PR team went over her head to ABC management. Adani went to ABC News boss Gaven Morris, and complained it was unreasonable that the onus for ensuring ABC news coverage was fair and balanced should fall back onto the company.

Adani has previously complained about ABC stories on its environmental management plans, secrecy over Great Barrier Reef pollution risks, and Adani bankrolling local government staff overseeing matters relating to the project.

Those complaints have all gone through the ABC's review process and none have been upheld.

Saturday AM's producer denied that Adani's complaint led to the story being abandoned.

• **See more here:**

<https://www.abc.net.au/mediawatch/episodes/adani/11172808>

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Gas industry continues to invade farmland

Reserving one fifth of gas production for domestic use will do little to reduce high prices and will further disadvantage Queensland farmers whose land is being opened up to the coal seam gas industry, according to Lock the Gate Alliance.

This week, the Queensland Government announced it would open more land in fertile farming country on the Western Downs to invasive CSG mining, and justified it by stating the gas produced would be reserved for domestic use.

The government boasts it had reserved one-fifth of land released to gas mining for domestic consumption in the past four years. Yet one-third of all gas produced on the eastern seaboard is needed to match the east coast domestic need, showing Queensland was still giving too much gas away to exporters.

There is also no guarantee companies will sell gas produced on these domestic-only tenements for less than the current high price. The gas price has been inflated ever since Australia was linked to the international market via export the three Gladstone export terminals.

Western Downs grazier Glenn Beasley said Queensland's food and fibre production was suffering due to the unremitting expansion of the CSG industry.

"It is a travesty that the Palaszczuk Government continues to encourage gas miners when our water bores are being drained, the amount of land we can use is being reduced, and local industry is still paying through the nose for our own gas," he said.

CSG waste issues unresolved

"There is also the unresolved issue of waste from the CSG industry.

"There are plans for a massive CSG waste dump upstream from where I draw my stock water. The risk of contamination, not only from salt, but from all the other toxins, is a continuing biosecurity risk for myself and primary producers downstream in the Condamine River and beyond.

"What's more, we know that for every 10 people employed in the gas industry, we lose 18 from agriculture.

"This is not a government for Queenslanders, it is a government for the big gas companies."

Lock the Gate Queensland spokesperson Ellie Smith called on the State Government to protect Queensland's interests by curtailing gas production in favour of renewable energy sources.

"Last week, gas giant ConocoPhillips announced plans to use a battery for its Darwin LNG plant, ironically illustrating the extent to which renewable energy sources are now cheaper than fossil fuels.

"The only way to break the stranglehold gas companies have over Australians now is if we move away from gas towards renewables," she said.

"Every new CSG well adds to the damage we have already done to our precious Great Artesian Basin and agricultural industries that depend on it. Given we know that even reserving gas for domestic use won't bring prices down, we have to simply stop this crazy gas expansion and look to alternatives."

Ms Smith said gas consumption was also falling in Australia, due in part to exorbitant export-driven prices, as well as the increasing appeal of renewables as a cheaper source of power.

"The other reason gas consumption is falling in Australia is that we are using less for gas powered fire stations than expected, challenging this notion that gas is needed as a 'transition fuel'. Renewables and storage are cheaper than gas power now," she said.

Limestone Coast opposition ignored

Meanwhile, fierce community opposition to the gas industry on South Australia's Limestone Coast has been ignored with the creation of three new petroleum exploration licences, according to Limestone Coast Protection Alliance.

Despite a moratorium on fracking in the area, the government is encouraging the gas industry to begin prospecting in the area and sink "conventional wells" through the creation of the tenements.

Limestone Coast Protection Alliance co-chair Angus Ralton said the government was trying to pull the wool over the eyes of locals.

"This is totally disrespectful – the community does not want this invasive, predatory and destructive industry to establish itself in our region," he said.

"You can bet that as soon as the industry gains a foothold, the government will back down on its fracking moratorium, and the beauty of the Limestone Coast and its agricultural values will be lost.

"This shows that our government is in the pocket of the gas companies. There's shale in the Otway Basin. That's what it's always been about.

"Once they start drilling, you can guarantee that the next step will be fracking that shale.

"We condemn this decision by the Marshall Government in the strongest terms possible."

Limestone Coast Protection Alliance secretary Cate Cooper said any short-term gain when gas companies established themselves in a region was quickly outweighed by losses to agriculture, the environment, and community culture.

"Gas companies are insidious in the way they pit farmer against farmer, with 'make good' negotiations conducted in secrecy and only with landholders whose land will be directly impacted," she said.

"The problem is gas drilling can impact entire aquifers, meaning landholders who do not have any wells on their properties may still be disadvantaged, though not compensated.

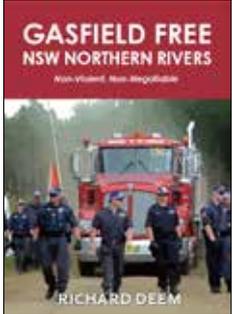
"We are all interlinked here, and any damage to one business is damage to all businesses.

"There is also still no way to safely dispose of the toxic waste created during the gas extraction process.

"This is an iconic tourism and wine growing region – we do not need this boom and bust industry wrecking those sustainable parts of our economy."

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A struggle against the imposition by force of a CSG industry.



Download free from:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/sbtwhwoykgfarys/Gasfield%20Free%20NSW%20Northern%20Rivers%20PDF.pdf?dl=0>

Global emissions from Australian carbon exports dwarf any declines in Australia's domestic emissions

With Energy and Emissions Minister Angus Taylor trotting out APPEA's line that Australian fossil fuel exports are contributing to emissions reduction overseas, it's useful to see how much unburned carbon is shipped offshore.

FFB reproduces here a blog post from the Grattan Institute which describes our exports, and how they are accounted for under international rules.

Lucy Percival writing on the Grattan Institute Blog

Depending on who you ask, carbon emissions in Australia are either rising, or falling. What is undeniable is that recent increases in emissions from Australia's fossil fuel exports dwarf any domestic reductions. Global emissions released overseas from coal and gas exported from Australia have more than doubled since 2000, and are now more than double Australia's domestic emissions.

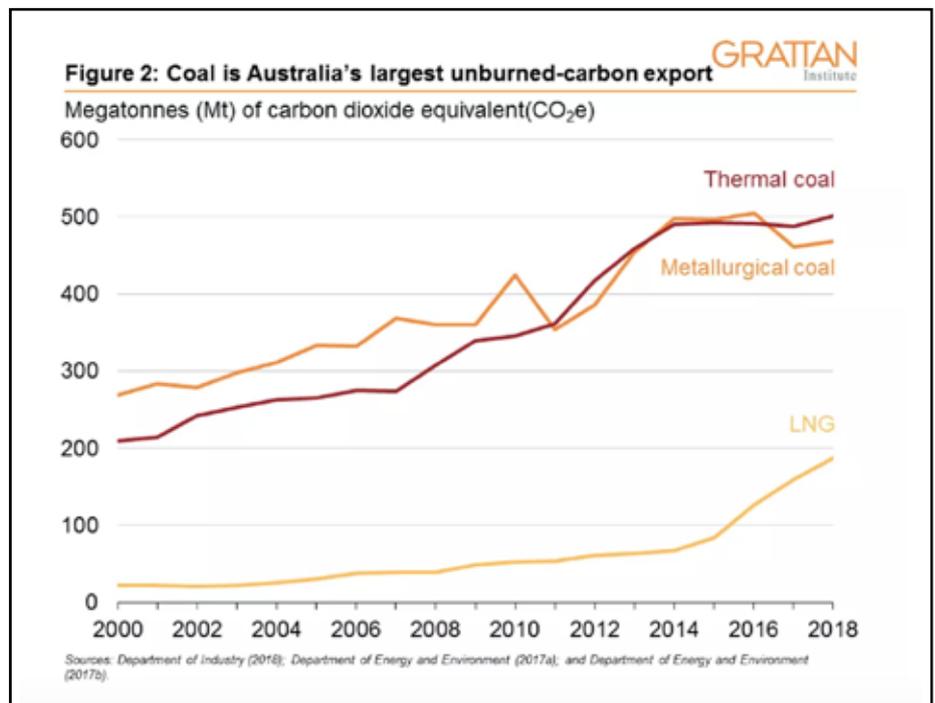
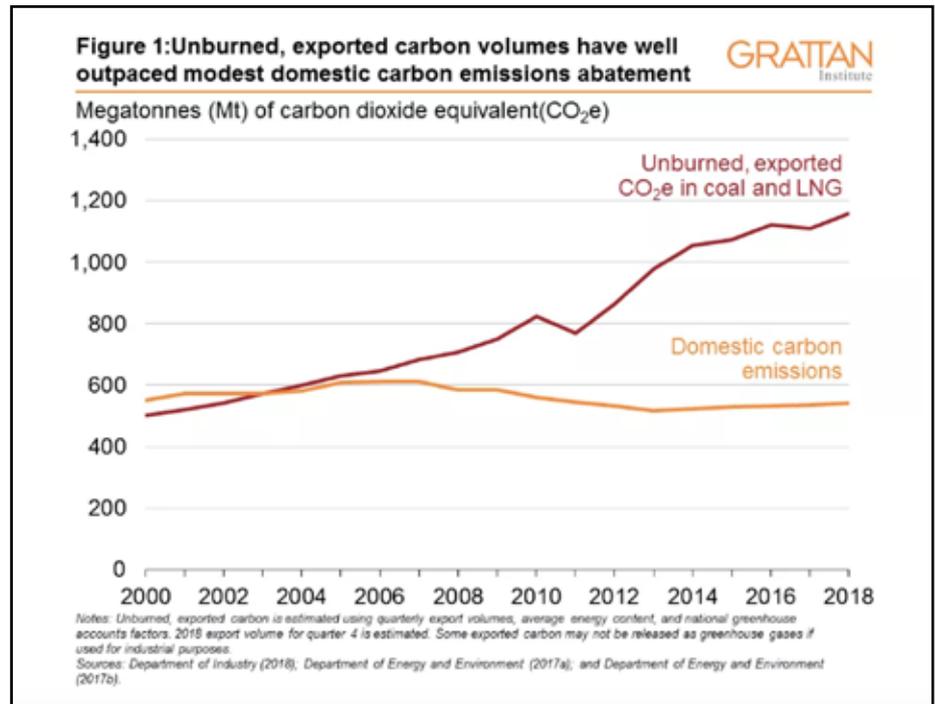
Whether domestic emissions are increasing or not depends largely on what benchmark year you use. For example, they are down since 2005 (the year used as a benchmark in the Paris Climate Change Agreement), but up since 2013 (when Australia had a carbon price). Domestic emissions in 2018 were 69 Megatonnes (Mt) below the 2005 benchmark, but 23 Mt higher than Australia's 2013 level. So, without question, domestic carbon emissions have risen in recent years.

Australia's target is to reduce emissions by 2030 to 26-to-28 per cent below the 2005 level. To hit the target, Australia would need to emit at least 158 Mt less carbon in 2030 than in 2005. At the moment this seems unlikely without new climate-change policies.

Fossil fuel exports double since 2000

By contrast, unburned carbon in Australia's fossil fuel exports are up whatever benchmark you pick, as shown in Figure 1. Australia's exported carbon has more than doubled from 500 Mt in 2000 to over 1,100 Mt in 2018. Global emissions from Australia's exported carbon are now more than double our total domestic carbon emissions from all sectors.

There are some differences in trends



between Australia's three main fossil fuel exports: thermal coal (burned to create electricity or heat), metallurgical coal (used to make steel) and liquefied natural gas (LNG), as shown in Figure 2. In general LNG has grown faster than coal, but from a smaller base. Coal still makes up a much larger share of Australia's unburned, exported carbon than LNG.

Between 2000 and 2018, thermal coal exports increased by 140 per cent,

or nearly 300 Mt more global carbon emissions per year. Metallurgical coal exports increased by 74 per cent, or 200 Mt more global carbon emissions per year. LNG exports increased eight-fold, from about 20 Mt of emissions per year in the early 2000s to 165 Mt in 2018.

Only carbon emissions within Australia are counted towards Australia's target. Under international emissions

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



Fossil exports

• Continued from p5

accounting rules, Australia is not directly accountable for the emissions from our exports.

A small portion of Australia's gas emissions may be used to make plastics and therefore do not produce emissions. But the vast majority of our coal and gas exports are burned and release carbon emissions.

Nor is Australia directly responsible for the emissions that produced our imports. Indeed, Australians benefit from some of those emissions because the fuel is used to produce our imported cars, iPhones and computers.

Countries need to act in unison

It makes sense to account for emissions based on where they are produced, rather than where fossil fuels were mined or where manufactured goods are sold.

The global economy is too complex to tie all emissions to either their point of origin or their end-users. But the rise in exported carbon within fossil fuels from Australia highlights the importance of all countries moving in lock-step to tackle climate change.

• Read the original blog here:

<https://blog.grattan.edu.au/2019/05/global-emissions-from-australian-carbon-exports-dwarf-any-declines-in-australias-domestic-emissions/>

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Inside the news

Labor parliamentarians are rushing to **embrace coal** (p14-15), even forming a 'friends of resources' group to back up shadow resources spokesman **Joel Fitzgibbon's** pro-coal and pro-gas stance.

Meanwhile, **Farmers for Climate Action** spokesman **Will Graham**, a member of the Liberal National party, pleaded, "My party, the Coalition Party, can go down in history as a bunch of coal-waving climate change denying sceptics, or we can rise to the occasion."

In the current parliament, it is difficult to imagine much progress will be made towards ending the **fossil fuel era**.

There's also an outburst of support for **nuclear power** within the **Coalition**. Queensland MPs want a committee formed to look at this very last century power source, while New South Wales leader of the Nationals, **John Barilaro**, promotes his dream of a bunch of Small Modular Reactors dotted around the country (p12).

Perhaps Barilaro should watch the new TV series, '**Chernobyl**' (p13) with its underlying theme of science versus wilful ignorance. **FFB** is almost inclined to subscribe to **Foxtel** and watch the highly acclaimed show.

Unions are becoming wary of **Adani**, with the CFMMEU demanding it reveal how it would staff the mine and warning not to let down members "who have supported your project in good faith".

A band of six regional Queensland Labor MPs have formed the '**Carmichael crew**', dedicated to holding Adani to account on jobs. They will be seeking a monthly progress report on jobs – how many and where they are going – from Adani CEO **Lucas Dow** if the project gets all of its approvals.

The company now denies the mine will be **highly automated**, but has previously said Carmichael would be automated 'from pit to port'.

With past claims of 10,000 jobs debunked, a healthy scepticism about Adani's employment promises is creeping in (p7-8).

In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 32,200 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/adani-prepares-for-next-wave-of-activism-against-carmichael-mine-20190531-p51t6i>

Adani prepares for next wave of activism against Carmichael mine

Mark Ludlow, AFR, 31/05/2019

Indian energy company Adani is preparing for the next wave of environmental activists attempting to stop its controversial \$2 billion Carmichael coal mine in Central Queensland after it received its penultimate approval from the state government on Friday. ...

Environmental protesters have already organised an “anti-Adani” rally to be held in King George Square in Brisbane next Friday.

If the final approval is granted, it is expected they will move into their “plan B” strategy of active disruption to the project, which would include blocking bulldozers to the Carmichael mine site in Central Queensland as well as disrupting Aurizon’s coal trains to export terminals on the coast.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-03/adani-carmichael-mine-will-lose-money-so-why-invest-in-coal/11172602>

Why would a billionaire persist with Adani when it will probably lose money?

John Quiggin, *The Conversation*, 03/06/2019

By mid-June, if everything goes as expected, Adani Australia will receive the final environmental approvals for its proposed Carmichael coal mine and rail line development. ...

There’s [a] problem of access to Aurizon’s rail line. ... That requires an agreement of access pricing and conditions. Aurizon is legally obliged to negotiate with Adani, but has shown itself to be in no hurry to reach a deal.

Then there’s insurance. ...

Without insurance, the project can’t proceed, and the pool of potential insurers is shrinking all the time. ...

Perhaps Gautam Adani is willing to lose a large share of his wealth simply to show he can’t be pushed around. Alternatively, as on numerous previous occasions, his promises of an imminent start to work may prove to be baseless.



A significant strip clearance at Adani’s Carmichael Mine site, which is alleged to be illegal activity, because not all clearances have been granted. Photo: Coast and Country

The third, and most worrying, possibility is that the political pressure to deliver the promised Adani jobs will lead to a large infusion of public money, all of which will be lost. ...

• *John Quiggin is professor of economics at the University of Queensland.*

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/adani-coal-mine-jobs-earning-more-than-200000/news-story/208b3351f22a6590f90a171850f978ec>

Adani coal mine jobs earning more than \$200,000

Cas Garvey, *Townsville Bulletin*, 02/06/2019

Supervisors at Adani’s Carmichael coal mine will be earning more than \$200,000 a year, as vacancies for the mine are advertised with only one more hurdle to turn on the green light. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/lnp-ridicules-regional-labor-mps-in-carmichael-crew/news-story/042c8accb1f59578515fd342ac328d84>

LNP ridicules regional Labor MP’s in ‘Carmichael crew’

Madura McCormack, *Townsville Bulletin*, 03/06/2019

A band of six regional Queensland MPs including those from Townsville have been ridiculed by the LNP for creating the “Carmichael crew”, a group dedicated to holding Adani to account on delivering regional jobs.

State Labor MPs Coralee O’Rourke (Mundingburra), Scott Stewart (Townsville) and Aaron Harper (Thuringowa), are half of the six-mem-

ber group, which includes Julieanne Gilbert (Mackay), Barry O’Rourke (Rockhampton) and Brittany Lauga (Keppel). ...

“The ‘Carmichael crew’ is seeking a monthly progress report on jobs – how many and where they are going – from Adani CEO Lucas Dow if the project gets all of its approvals,” the email read.

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/no-automation-at-carmichael-mine-and-jobs-are-for-regional-queensland-adani-vows/news-story/5b5fba35e4d0fbddedc41c56e89fc7d2>

No automation at Carmichael mine and jobs are for regional Queensland, Adani vows

Madura McCormack, *Townsville Bulletin*, 03/06/2019

Mining giant Adani has reaffirmed its commitment to regional jobs and said the mine will “not be automated”.

[Adani says] “The mine will not be automated. We will use the same conventional coal mining techniques and equipment used in other Queensland coal mines.” ...

A spokeswoman also defended the number of jobs the mine will create, saying it will be similar to other open cut coal mines of a similar size in Queensland.

“Job numbers for operational open cut coal mines of a similar size in Queensland range between 800 and 1,500 roles,” she said. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/noisy-activists-told-not-to-sneer-at-honest-mining-jobs-by-townsville-enterprise/news-story/cdff596a38a18b-29c743683e1e8c05c9>

'Noisy activists' told not to sneer at honest mining jobs by Townsville Enterprise

Madura McCormack, Townsville Bulletin, 03/06/2019

'Noisy' activists don't understand the importance of mining to regional Queensland and shouldn't block Adani's Carmichael project through the courts, Townsville's peak economic lobby group [Townsville Enterprise] has said. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/adani-downsizes-cuts-new-job-numbers-to-as-low-as-800/news-story/de275c8852e7516361be1934ab7bfc88>

Adani downsizes, cuts new job numbers to as low as 800

Sarah Elks, The Australian, 03/06/2019

The workforce at Indian mining conglomerate Adani's mine in jobs-starved central Queensland could be as low as 800 once the Carmichael facility is operational. ...

In response to questions from *The Australian*, an Adani Mining spokeswoman said the redesigned development would create 1500 direct jobs and 6750 indirect jobs during ramp-up and construction. But Adani would not say exactly how many jobs would be available once the mine was running. ...

Adani did not say whether its contractors would be prevented from hiring foreign workers, and did not say whether the company would guarantee it would buy Australian equipment. ...

CFMEU national president Tony Maher said Adani must guarantee that all ongoing production jobs at its Carmichael mine were permanent.

"If half the jobs are casual labour hire with no holidays, no job security, and 30 per cent less pay, it will be a slap in the face for local community workers who have supported the project in good faith," Mr Maher said. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2019/jun/03/abc-says-it-didnt-reject-adani-story-because-company-intervened>

ABC says it didn't reject Adani story because of company pressure

Amanda Meade, The Guardian, 03/06/2019

The ABC says it did not broadcast a story about Adani for sound editorial reasons and not because the company spokeswoman telephoned its news director Gaven Morris.

Guardian Australia asked the ABC why a story by radio current affairs reporter Isobel Roe had not been broadcast and if it had anything to do with a direct call made by Adani spokeswoman Kate Campbell to Morris.

"There was no complaint," an ABC spokeswoman told *Guardian Australia*. ...

ABC sources said Roe was preparing a report for Saturday AM on Friday 24 May which looked at the economics of Adani's Carmichael mine.

But after calling Campbell for a response, the spokeswoman called Morris directly. Roe was later told by her managers not to proceed with her report. ...

The heavy-handed tactics by Adani follow revelations the company lodged several Freedom of Information requests about ABC reporters who had covered Adani projects.

ABC investigative reporters Mark Wil-lacy and Michael Slezak were asked for documents relating to news reports on allegations Adani was illegally drilling bore holes. ...

The ABC's Media Watch also investigated the spiking of Roe's story and spoke to staff who overheard conversations about it in the ABC's news-room. ...

Despite the ABC's claim there was "no complaint" Media Watch says Adani told them they did complain about Roe's story before it was broadcast. ...

Media Watch host Paul Barry said the spiking of the story "sends a terrible message to ABC journalists trying to do their job and also to ABC viewers who trust the ABC to give frank and fearless coverage of matters." ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2019/jun/04/abc-journalists-call-on-news-chief-to-explain-why-adani-story-was-pulled>

ABC journalists call on news chief to explain why Adani story was pulled

Amanda Meade, The Guardian, 05/06/2019

ABC journalists have condemned alleged editorial interference by Adani and called on the news director, Gaven Morris, to explain why a story on the mining giants was never run. ...

"ABC MEAA [union] members stand with ABC journalist Isobel Roe, whose story on Adani appears to have been pulled, and we reaffirm the commitment of all ABC journalists to the editorial independence of the ABC and to upholding our ability to do our job without fear or favour."

The media union said ABC management "must defend the public broadcaster from editorial interference, be it political or corporate, and uphold the obligations of the ABC charter". ...

Concern was also raised by the union about revelations in *Guardian Australia* last week that Adani had lodged several Freedom of Information requests about ABC journalists who had covered the controversial Indian mining company.

The ABC's Queensland-based investigative reporter Josh Robertson referred to the Adani FOI application in an earlier ABC report about the company's aggressive legal approach to opponents, through its lawyers AJ & Co.

"Since it was engaged by Adani, AJ & Co has pushed to bankrupt a cash-strapped Indigenous opponent of the mine, threatened legal action against a community legal service and an environmental group, and applied to access an ABC journalist's expenses and documents," Robertson reported. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/how-india-sees-antiadani-protests/news-story/ae44f0186df9e2bfbfee191d6aadf42e>

How India sees anti-Adani protests

Robert Gottliebsen, The Australian, 04/06/2019

In Australia we saw the Adani coal mine as an environmental issue. In India they saw the Adani roadblocks as a clear illustration that Australians were racist and discriminated against Indians. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jun/05/adani-jobs-explained-why-there-are-new-questions-over-carmichael-mine>

Adani jobs explained: why there are new questions over Carmichael mine

Lisa Cox, The Guardian, 05/06/2019

It's been presented as a jobs bonanza for Queensland, but there are fresh questions about Adani's Carmichael project and the employment it will create in regional Queensland. ...

It comes after the reemergence of an interview with the Nationals MP, Bridget McKenzie, now the agriculture minister, on Sky News.

In the interview, from late 2018, McKenzie discusses the Carmichael mine and the number of jobs that will be available.

"I think it's great news they'll be employing 1,500 through the construction phase and around about 100 in ongoing," she says. ...

The confusion doesn't end there. Adani, in its latest statements about its job figures says the number of ongoing operational jobs at the mine would not be 1,800, but between 800 and 1,500, based on mines of similar size in Queensland. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/cfmmeu-demands-frank-answers-on-adani-jobs/news-story/03652fb909ace574ebd98bd8c574eae9>

CFMMEU demands 'frank answers' on Adani jobs

Renee Viellaris, *Courier-Mail*, 04/06/2019

The CFMMEU is muscling up for a special agreement with Adani, demanding it reveal how it would staff the mine and warning not to let down members "who have supported your project in good faith".

Just days after the construction arm of the CFMMEU told Anastacia Palaszczuk she "risked being taken for a ride" by Adani if she rushed to approve the project, the union's mining and energy division is asking to be rewarded by the miner.

The letter sent yesterday signals the union wants an enterprise bargaining agreement giving its members lucrative pay and conditions. A unionised mining site can make it harder to hire contractors and fly-in fly-out workers.

In the letter to Adani chief executive Lucas Dow, mining and energy division general president Tony Maher asked for urgent clarification on the jobs that would be provided. ...

He demanded eight "frank answers", including how people many Adani would hire, if it would employ labour hire companies and whether it would rule out a casual or fixed-term workforce. ...

<https://www.theleader.com.au/story/6200562/adani-approvals-not-set-and-forget-ley/>

Adani approvals not 'set and forget': Ley

Rebecca Gredley, *AAP*, 05/06/2019

Environment Minister Sussan Ley insists she won't "set and forget" when it comes to environmental approvals for the Adani coalmine.

Although the federal government has ticked off necessary approvals for construction of the Carmichael coalmine, two research plans must be approved before mining can start.

Adani has to identify the source aquifer for the Doongmabulla Springs, which is a wetland area southwest of the mine that is at risk of drying up if mining starts.



A pamphlet for Adani? No, it's Murdoch's newspaper, The Townsville Bulletin, on Monday, June 3.

"This is part of one of the research plans that is yet to be approved by me," Ms Ley told ABC News on Wednesday. ...

Ms Ley says both herself, as federal environment minister, and the state minister, will have an ongoing role in compliance and monitoring for Adani. ...

But the minister says the ball is firmly in the Queensland state government's court, with it's decision on Adani's groundwater management plan due next week.

Adani also needs to overcome hurdles including the development of a rail line, finance and insurance.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-05/adani-doing-illegal-work-at-mine-group-claims-footage-shows/11180620>

Drone footage shows Adani doing illegal work at mine site, environmental group claims

Michael Atkin & Mark Willacy, *ABC*, 05/06/2019

New drone footage and high-resolution satellite imagery allegedly shows evidence of illegal work being done at Adani's controversial Carmichael coal mine project, according to environmental group Coast and Country.

The group has written to Queensland's Environment Department requesting an urgent investigation.

The allegations include that Adani conducted significant ground work at 19 locations over a total area of 2.75 hectares. ...

In a statement, Queensland's Environment Department confirmed it had received the allegations but was yet to determine if they warranted an investigation.

Adani has denied the allegations, telling the ABC in a statement the work fits within the definition of stage one and it is complying with the conditions of the project's approvals. ...

"The claims made by Coast and Country have no factual basis and are nothing more than an attempt to damage the reputation of Adani and the Carmichael Project." ...

The Queensland Environment Department is still investigating another alleged breach which was raised last September by the ABC.

The claims, which are also denied by Adani, include that it sunk six dewatering bores on the mine site. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/al-gore-warns-india-wont-want-to-buy-coal-from-carmichael-mine/news-story/3cea4a049955b8c2d5677981dbf5c1c1>

Al Gore warns India won't want to buy coal from Carmichael mine

Domanii Cameron, *Courier-Mail*, 06/06/2019

Greens crusader Al Gore has bid anyone wanting to sell coal to India "good luck", in an indirect swipe at the State and Federal Government over the controversial Adani mine.

The former US vice president, who has been a critic of the Carmichael coal mine, lead the first day of The Climate Reality Project's Leadership Corps training ...

During a two-hour power point presentation, Mr Gore spoke about India's electricity generation, stating 65 per cent of which came from solar and wind in 2018.

He also said 225GW of solar was under construction in India.

“They’re not gonna continue with coal,” he said.

“You wanna sell coal to India, good luck.” ... “That’s one of the reasons why not a single global financial institution after doing the financial analysis would put any money up for the Adani mine.

“Not a single one of them. That’s why it looks like none of the insurance companies will do it either.” ...

<https://www.smb.com.au/national/price-talks-a-coal-comfort-for-adani-20190605-p51uvb.html>

Price talks a coal comfort for Adani

Kylar Loussikian & Samantha Hutchinson, SMH, 06/06/2019

Melissa Price’s track record as environment minister doesn’t contain many highlights.

But we can now reveal she attended at least one meeting.

Price, who was punted from the environment portfolio post-election to the lesser defence industries job, rolled out for mining hopeful Adani Australia.

Senior figures from Adani met with Price in October 22 to lobby for the project. ...

In the seven months to April 8 Adani representatives met departmental officials on 20 occasions to discuss groundwater management plans connected with the mine, according to Environment Department disclosures.

That’s a meeting once every nine days for seven months. ...

And Adani is still being advised by lobbying outfit Govstrat, which is run by former Queensland Labor figure Damian Power and has on its books former Queensland premier Bob Borbidge and Bill Shorten’s former chief-of-staff Ken McPherson.

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-04/meet-the-queenslanders-changing-the-energy-mix/11173962>

In Queensland’s coal heartland, some locals are leaving mining jobs to work in renewables

Caitlyn Gribbin, ABC, 04/06/2019

The push by some for a transition from coal-fired power to renewables has caused angst in coal mining communities and played a key role in the federal election result.

But, in Queensland’s coal country, some change is already happening – and it is not because of government intervention. ...

Shaun Fisher insisted he is not a greenie. ...

Mr Fisher is one of 80 people, including many former coal miners, who now work for a company focusing on solar in a region that has relied on coal for economic security.

For the boilermaker, the job transition was a no-brainer.

“Have you ever been out to the coal mines? Anyone that works out there, you’re black, you’re black by the end of the day, you’re covered in it,” he said.

“We’re clean at the end of the day. We’re not sucking that shit in. Live longer doing this kind of work.” ...

Clermont publican, Leanne Appleton ... said the Grand Hotel, which she and husband Kelvin part-own, looked “a bit like a spaceship” because it was plastered with solar panels.

“It’s very hurtful that it is said we don’t look out for the environment because we do,” she said.

“Everyone wants a better future for their children and no-one wants to see land just demolished.”

But Ms Appleton said, for her coal-mining family and friends, jobs always came first. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/regional/acland-sets-deadline-to-avoid-massive-job-losses/news-story/3b7d4c93f47f21789a9892dc58833b6a>

New Hope deadline to avoid 150 New Acland Mine job losses

Matthew Newton, Courier-Mail, 05/06/2019

New Hope will be forced to cut roughly 150 jobs from New Acland Mine if it does not secure the rest of its Stage 3 approvals from the State Government by September 1. ...

New Hope chief financial officer Andrew Boyd and chief development officer Ben Armitage met with State Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy Dr yesterday to press home the urgency of the situation.

It has been 12 years since New Hope first sought approvals for New Acland Stage 3, a process that has been tied up in a series of legal battles. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/atlassian-cofounder-mike-cannonbrookes-float-ideas-for-filling-looming-70bn-coal-hole/news-story/816ca3213cf474524926588fb7c2f754>

Atlassian co-founder Mike Cannon-Brookes floats ideas for filling looming \$70bn coal hole

Joyce Moullakis & David Swan, The Australian, 06/06/2019

Atlassian co-founder Mike Cannon-Brookes believes Australia has to prioritise research and development, kickstart manufacturing and ramp up exports of other resources to plug to a \$70 billion dollar future hole in economic output left by a move away from coal.

The billionaire told the Morgan Stanley Australia Summit policymakers should rethink the national energy debate by considering new ways to export solar and wind power and even build mobile phones, solar panels and batteries domestically. ...

OIL & GAS LEAKS

<https://www.naracoorteherald.com.au/story/6193409/its-disgraceful-lcpa-slams-otway-basin-drilling-plans/>

“It’s disgraceful”: LCPA slams Otway Basin drilling plans

Amy Maynard, Naracoote Herald, 31/06/2019

The Otway Basin has been marked for drilling by the State Government, with bidding open for three new petroleum exploration licences.

It’s a move that has been met with swift pushback on social media, and co-chair of the Limestone Coast Protection Alliance, Angus Ralton, has labelled the move “disgraceful”. ...

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/sims-7-gas-claim-wrong-on-so-many-levels-20190602-p51tpc>

Sims’ \$7 gas claim ‘wrong on so many levels’

Matthew Stevens, AFR, 02/06/2019

The claim by the competition regulator that there is “no reason” why east coast gas cannot be acquired at \$7 a gigajoule is “wrong on so many levels it is actually hard to know where to start”, according to one of Australia’s leading energy analysts. ...

“The problem is, it seems like when someone is offering \$10-11/GJ gas the buyers want \$8/GJ gas or they are going out of business, but when someone offers \$8/GJ gas they want \$6/GJ otherwise they are going out of business,” [energy analyst Mark] Samter assessed in a note sent to clients on Friday. ...

STOP WATER MINING
THE NEXT RESOURCES BATTLE



<https://www.theage.com.au/business/the-economy/how-to-finish-off-manufacturing-become-the-world-s-biggest-gas-exporter-20190531-p51td4.html>

How to finish off manufacturing: become the world's biggest gas exporter

Ross Gittins, *The Age*, 03/06/2019

Did you know Australia has now overtaken Qatar to be the largest exporter of natural gas in the world? But, thanks to private profiteering and government bungling, this seeming triumph comes at the risk of further diminishing manufacturing industry in NSW and Victoria.

It's yet another example of naive economic reformers stuffing things up because real-world markets don't work the way they do in textbooks. ...

When expected world liquefied natural gas prices rose last year, Australian gas suppliers were quick to raise their prices to local manufacturers, which use much gas in their production processes.

But expected world prices have fallen significantly over the past six months. Have the three suppliers dominating our east coast market cut their prices with the same alacrity? No. Most commercial and industrial users will pay more than \$9 a gigajoule for gas this year, with some paying more than \$11. ...

Why haven't suppliers cut their prices? Because their pricing power means they don't have to if they don't want to. Why would they want to? Only because the government threatens them with something worse if they rip too much off their customers. ...

Is this the best way to regulate a market? No, but once you've stuffed it up you have little choice. The stuff-up evolved over some years, under federal governments of both colours and, predictably, with a lack of federal-state co-ordination.

It began in the resources boom, when Labor's Martin Ferguson approved the construction of no less than three gas liquefaction plants near Gladstone in Queensland. That was one plant too many. ...

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/gas/queensland-gas-rights-granted-with-manufacturer-supply-promise-20190602-p51tpz>

Queensland gas rights granted with manufacturer supply promise

Mark Ludlow, *AFR*, 03/06/2019

An APLNG-Armour Energy joint venture has been awarded a gas tenement in south-west Queensland which has to

be used exclusively for the Australian manufacturing sector. ...

APLNG-Armour Energy has won the successful bid for 18 square kilometres of land, 22km south-west of Chinchilla.

Queensland Resources Minister Anthony Lynham said in an Australian first the permit to drill the land was conditional on it being supplied to domestic manufacturers.

"This is about more petajoules of Queensland gas in pipes, fuelling jobs in manufacturing," Dr Lynham said. ...



New gasfields in Queensland.
Map: Qld Government

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/gas-hungry-manufacturers-to-benefit-from-aplng-armour-energy-exploration-joint-venture/news-story/52c2fb78b3318fb210965e23cdc16c91>

Gas-hungry manufacturers to benefit from APLNG, Amour Energy exploration joint venture

Louise Brannelly, *Courier-Mail*, 03/06/2019

Gas-hungry manufacturers will benefit from a new exploration joint venture in southwest Queensland.

The State Government announced yesterday that Australia Pacific LNG and Armour Energy were the successful bidders for an 18sq km block near Chinchilla. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/challenge-to-australias-gas-dominance/news-story/6051a3fd9cc1871e50d34ce4972ffde9>

Challenge to Australia's gas dominance

Perry Williams, *The Australian*, 04/06/2019

The world's largest buyer of LNG has warned Australia faces a battle to remain the top global exporter as a raft of rival energy superpowers work to grab market share among Asian buyers. ...

LNG export revenues will jump by 57 per cent to \$48bn this year, boosted by new capacity due online, but the next challenge is for Australia to develop a second wave of projects that can compete with a wave of up to 200 million tonnes of capacity that could get the go-ahead this year. ...

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/lng-ceasefire-in-western-australia-20190603-p51u0w>

LNG ceasefire in Western Australia

Jennifer Hewett, *AFR*, 03/06/2019

The state government and the powerful resources industry in Western Australia are quietly trying to negotiate a joint emissions reduction plan to try to head off radical proposals from the state's environmental watchdog. ...

Both government and industry were alarmed when the EPA put out draft guidelines in March calling for a policy of zero net emissions to be imposed on all new projects with emissions of over 100,000 tonnes a year of CO₂.

The outcry from industry led the WA government to successfully pressure the EPA to withdraw the guidelines, pending further consultations with industry. ...

Some proposals will include the LNG industry's commitment to shifts companies are already undertaking – but which will all add up to a substantial sounding package the WA government can also sell to its political constituency.

That includes commitments to offset a percentage of project emissions via large scale planting of trees and land management plans in other areas of the state or country. ...

Chevron is also expected to announce shortly that its much-delayed plans for carbon capture and storage on Gorgon's Barrow Island will finally be operational later this year. Chevron's other giant LNG project at Wheatstone will also announce offsets for its emissions despite the former Barnett government lifting the company's obligation for carbon reduction. ...

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/queensland-gas-maverick-returns-to-where-it-all-started-20190603-p51u1d>

Queensland's gas maverick returns to where it all started

Matthew Stevens, *AFR*, 04/06/2019

Having resurfaced first in Mongolia, dumped gas whisperer Richard Cottee has now managed to find his way back to the place where his unconventional

adventures in energy all started, the coal fields of central Queensland.

Cottee has accepted an invitation to become executive chairman of State Gas, a driller that is working to confirm the potential of both conventional and coal seam gas resources it has revealed in the home of Australian metallurgical coal, the Bowen Basin. ...

<https://medium.com/lobbywatch/cooking-with-gas-62d7e5f65066>

Cooking With Gas

Dan Gocher, Lobbywatch, Medium.com, 03/06/2019

The annual oil and gas industry conference is typically an opportunity for company reps to come together and talk about infinite growth and endless profits. But the tone at this year's APPEA conference was decidedly different – it felt like an industry under siege. And rightfully so, given the contribution of the oil and gas sector to global emissions.

Various industry representatives railed against “professional activists” and the “noisy few”, armed with “megaphones or iPhones”, soiling the good reputation of the oil and gas industry on Facebook and Twitter. Apparently, the industry needs to “find its voice” and “tell its story”. ...

• *Lobbywatch is a project run by ACCR which aims to illustrate the negative influence of lobby groups on climate and energy policy in Australia.*

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/arrow-gas-field-still-bleeding-billions-of-dollars/news-story/3ea15d0b34d72a3ddeef133ebbd517b5>

Arrow gas field still bleeding billions of dollars

Perry Williams, The Australian, 05/06/2019

Arrow Energy, the Queensland joint venture between Shell and PetroChina, has slumped to a \$752 million loss amid concerns its \$10 billion Surat Basin gas project will miss next year's deadline for first production. ...

Total losses since the Arrow venture was formed in 2010 now total \$11.7bn ...

One radical solution suggested by EnergyQuest would be for the Queensland or federal governments to acquire Arrow.

“Given the time that has passed, it seems unlikely this substantial resource will be developed under present ownership arrangements,” Mr Bethune said.

“One possibility which might be attrac-



An artist's impression of a Small Modular Reactor, being promoted by nuke fans.

tive to Shell and PetroChina would be for the Queensland and/or commonwealth governments to offer to buy Arrow. This might be the foundation of a commonwealth gas company, as advocated recently by the Energy Users Association.” ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/fertiliser-giant-incitec-pivot-gets-lastminute-gas-supply-to-stay-on-gibson-island/news-story/ee42043e763425dc14a1bbc81f7257bd>

Fertiliser giant Incitec Pivot gets last-minute gas supply to stay on Gibson Island

Michael Wray, AAP, Courier-Mail, 04/06/2019

An 11th hour deal to secure affordable gas has saved 400 jobs at Incitec Pivot's Brisbane fertiliser plant.

Incitec Pivot managing director and CEO Jeanne Johns said the deal with Australia Pacific LNG would supply gas through to December 2020 and support more than \$100 million in plant maintenance over the next three years. ...

IMPORT INSANITY

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/lng-terminal-can-double-capacity/news-story/c51c9a9a7136cba4e0cbb96c865e1920>

LNG terminal 'can double capacity'

Perry Williams, The Australian, 03/06/2019

Australia's first LNG import terminal, financed by iron ore billionaire Andrew Forrest, could double its planned capacity to plug an expected shortfall of gas on the nation's east coast. ...

Critics of the LNG import terminal question the high price of gas delivered into Australia's southern states compared with historic tariffs. AIE concedes prices will be between

\$10 and \$11 a gigajoule but says the volumes will be available next year, compared with more uncertain timing for domestic gas production. ...

NUKE MADNESS

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/jun/02/queensland-nationals-mps-push-for-inquiry-to-lift-australias-nuclear-power-ban>

Queensland Coalition MPs push for inquiry to lift Australia's nuclear power ban

AAP, The Guardian, 02/06/2019

A group of Queensland Liberal National party MPs reportedly want parliament to consider the feasibility of nuclear power in Australia.

The energy source is banned as a source of power but several Coalition MPs will put forward a motion in the Senate to create a committee to investigate using nuclear power in the energy mix.

Queensland MP Keith Pitt and his Senate colleague James McGrath are behind the push ...

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/opinion/its-time-we-started-talking-about-nuclear-power-as-an-option-in-australia/news-story/c55184808fc3a381533d-f8b98ce4a8fe>

It's time we started talking about nuclear power as an option in Australia

John Barilaro, Daily Telegraph, 02/06/2019

It's guaranteed baseload energy with zero emissions, no fossil fuels and probably the cheapest cost to the average Australian household. ...

Last year, I attended and spoke at a global seminar in the US on the next generation of nuclear energy systems – Small Modular Reactors (SMRs). These

are not the reactors your grandparents grew up with, nor Mr Burns' nuclear plant on The Simpsons.

They are smaller in size than conventional reactors and can be placed in remote areas without the need to feed directly to the grid. ...

• *John Barilaro is Deputy Premier of NSW and leader of the NSW Nationals.*

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/rendezview/money-and-power-didnt-stop-chernobyl-disaster-we-must-learn/news-story/0749c5383b94cc4f7641fd1122fa7a9>

Money and power didn't stop Chernobyl disaster. We must learn

Dr Karen Brooks, Courier-Mail, 02/06/2019

The television series, Chernobyl, based on the catastrophic explosion of the Chernobyl Power Plant near the Ukrainian city of Pripyat in April 1986 and its aftermath, is being described as the highest-rated show of all time on IMDb (the Internet Movie Database). ...

While the superb cast and settings as well as the admix of horror, dystopian narrative, realism, drama and documentary contribute to its authenticity, it could be the underlying theme of science versus wilful ignorance that resonates so strongly with modern viewers.

The nature of Soviet geopolitical relations in the 1980s meant they went to great lengths to cover up the Chernobyl cataclysm, particularly in the initial stages.

But this doesn't completely account for the ongoing, stubborn stance of those who could make a real difference – men in power who refused to accept the knowledge, proven science and thus warnings of lauded experts. ...

Chernobyl is available to stream on Foxtel On Demand.

• *Dr Karen Brooks is an honorary senior researcher at IASH at the University of Queensland.*

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/jun/04/nuclear-power-doesnt-stack-up-without-a-carbon-price-industry-group-says>

Nuclear power doesn't stack up without a carbon price, industry group says

Sarah Martin, The Guardian, 04/06/2019

Australia would need to adopt a carbon price for nuclear power to be economically viable, a peak lobby group for the sector says, as it welcomes a push by the Nationals for a fresh Senate inquiry into the idea.

The Australian Nuclear Association, which advocates for nuclear science

and technology, said nuclear power could provide cheap, reliable, carbon-free energy in Australia, but it would only be cost competitive with gas and coal generation if pollution was priced. ...

The Minerals Council of Australia has flagged it will use the EPBC Act review to push for a removal of the country's nuclear ban, saying Australia is the only high electricity consuming country without nuclear power in its energy mix. ...

On Monday, the former Nationals leader Barnaby Joyce said he agreed with [Nationals MP Keith] Pitt's push for Australia to use nuclear power. ...

However, the total cost of building a nuclear power station could still be prohibitive. In the UK, the estimated bill for the nation's first new nuclear power station in more than 20 years, Hinkley Point C, has blown out to AS40bn.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/jun/05/crackpot-stuff-coalition-mps-call-for-nuclear-power-inquiry-rejected-by-greens>

'Crackpot stuff': Coalition MPs call for nuclear power inquiry rejected by Greens

Sarah Martin, The Guardian, 05/06/2019

The Greens have labelled Coalition MPs pushing for an inquiry into nuclear power as "lunatic cowboys", pledging to block any move to overturn Australia's nuclear ban in the Senate.

As conservative MPs move to establish a Senate inquiry into nuclear power when parliament returns next month, the Greens senator Sarah Hanson-Young has invited the former Nationals leader Barnaby Joyce to debate her in the "town he thinks it should be built".

"Talk of overturning the ban on nuclear power in Australia is crackpot stuff," Hanson-Young, who is the party's environment spokesperson, said.

"Aside from being a dangerous technology, nuclear power is wildly expensive and would take a decade or more to build. ...

The New South Wales deputy premier, John Barilaro, has also thrown his support behind the nuclear push, saying despite the debate over emissions reduction the nuclear "solution" was seen as too "politically risky". ...

CLIMATE CRISIS

<https://www.smb.com.au/environment/climate-change/time-to-flick-climate-emergency-switch-a-plea-to-our-new-parliament-20190530-p51so6.html>

Time to flick climate emergency switch: a plea to our new Parliament

Ian Dunlop, SMH, 03/06/2019

A year ago, there was little discussion of climate change as an existential threat, or the corresponding need for emergency action.

Today, in the face of rapidly accelerating climate impacts, "existential threat" and "climate emergency" are common currency globally, existential meaning the potential to destroy humanity as we know it. ...

Australia still has its head in the sand. We are among the most exposed to this threat, yet we return a government that has been incapable of delivering any credible climate or energy policy. ...

The Parliament we have just elected needs to understand the emergency, and to address it. And yet it cannot even agree on the beginnings of an energy policy.

• *Ian Dunlop is a former oil, gas and coal industry executive. He was chairman of the Australian Coal Association and CEO of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.*

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/comment-isfree/2019/jun/03/we-must-mobilise-for-the-climate-emergency-like-we-do-in-war-time-where-is-the-climate-minister>

We must mobilise for the climate emergency like we do in wartime. Where is the climate minister?

Ian Dunlop & David Spratt, The Guardian, 03/06/2019

The second Morrison ministry contains no one with nominal responsibility for "climate" in any sense, despite the fact that it is the greatest threat facing the country. Angus Taylor, who spent much of his pre-parliamentary career fighting windfarms, claiming repeatedly that there is "too much wind and solar" in the system, is now minister for energy and emissions reduction. No mention of climate here, despite the fact that climate is what it is all about, or should be. ...

• *Ian Dunlop was formerly an international oil, gas and coal industry executive, chair of the Australian Coal Association and CEO of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.*

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/jun/03/disgrace-angus-taylor-under-pressure-after-failing-to-release-emissions-data>

'Disgrace': Angus Taylor under pressure after failing to release emissions data

Lisa Cox, The Guardian, 03/06/2019

Labor and the Greens have demanded the government immediately release national greenhouse emissions data, and have warned the new emissions reduction minister could be in contempt of parliament for missing the deadline to publish the figures.

Angus Taylor's first act in his new role was to miss a Senate-set deadline on Friday for the publication of Australia's emissions data for the December 2018 quarter. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-06/australian-emissions-rise-again-delayed-government-data-shows/11184906>

Australia's greenhouse gas emissions rise again, according to delayed Federal Government data

Penny Timms & Michael Slezak, ABC, 06/06/2019

Australia's greenhouse gas emissions have reached record highs in many sectors, continuing an upward trend that began in 2013, according to official Government figures released today.

The Federal Government's Quarterly Update of the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory for the three months to December 2018 shows emissions increased by 0.8 per cent seasonally adjusted, compared to the previous quarter.

That increase was, in part, driven by emissions from LNG for export, diesel consumption across transport, and metal manufacturing.

"While emissions increases from the rapid growth of LNG exports are included in Australia's emissions in the report, the success of this industry means that it has potentially reduced global emissions by up to 27 per cent of Australia's annual emissions in the year to December 2018," Energy Minister Angus Taylor said in a statement.

"The Morrison Government is not going to trash successful Australian export industries that are reducing global emissions, in order to reduce Australian emissions." ...

FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/bruised-labor-in-race-to-embrace-coal/news-story/131fa9abd6309b9f61f714a948317a3a>

Bruised Labor in race to embrace coal

Rosie Lewis, The Australian, 03/06/2019

New opposition resources spokesman Joel Fitzgibbon has promised any mining project that does not need taxpayer funding and meets strict environmental tests will be backed by Labor, as the party embraces coal after its defeat at the federal election.

The regional NSW MP was one of several Labor members, including new opposition Treasury spokesman Jim Chalmers, to come out in support of the coal industry yesterday.

Mr Fitzgibbon, who added the resources portfolio to his agriculture portfolio in the shadow cabinet shake-up, also conceded that the Australian people had rejected a carbon price. ...

"The Labor Party has always had a policy to support the mining of coal and the export of coal. We will continue to have that policy," Mr Fitzgibbon told *The Australian*. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/labors-new-resources-spokesman-backs-adani-but-party-faces-split/news-story/0a060a12f650fda5fce176cfc7425f6a>

Labor's new resources spokesman backs Adani but party faces split

Steven Scott, Courier-Mail, 03/06/2019

Anthony Albanese has signalled a likely change in Labor's approach to mining, appointing the party's strongest coal advocate Joel Fitzgibbon to the resources portfolio.

But in a sign Labor faces ongoing tensions over climate policies, Mr Albanese also promoted Terri Butler, an outspoken opponent of the Adani mine, as shadow environment minister. ...

Mr Fitzgibbon told *The Courier-Mail* he would use his new role to ensure "Labor supports mining, gas and petroleum industries."

Declaring global demand for both thermal and coking coal will "remain strong for decades", Mr Fitzgibbon said "we should welcome the investment and jobs" from mines that can pass environmental tests and stand on their own two feet. ...

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/6193973/mon-ey-politicians-shouldnt-take/>

Money politicians shouldn't take

David Ritter, Canberra Times, 03/06/2019

As the old saying goes, always follow the money. A beautiful, flourishing future is possible for Australia but only if we can effectively tackle the vested interests that are holding us back as a country.

Every year, large sums are donated by the fossil fuel industry to politicians and political parties, while Australian people are being robbed of decent climate action. ...

If Scott Morrison is serious about governing for 'the quiet Australians' then he needs to turn down the volume of big business' vested interests that drown out the public interest. Banning corporate donations would be a great place to start.

Recent figures from the Australian Electoral Commission showed that more than a million dollars in direct political donations from the fossil fuel industry was showered on politicians within a single year – and that was before the federal election. ...

• *David Ritter is the chief executive officer of Greenpeace Australia Pacific.*

<https://www.afr.com/news/politics/national/friends-of-resources-group-formed-within-labor-ranks-20190531-p51t8c>

'Friends of resources' group formed within Labor ranks

Peter Ker, AFR, 04/06/2019

Federal Labor's relationship with the resources sector will be the focus of a new group within caucus that wants to rebuild the party's relationship with traditional blue-collar voters.

Dubbed the Labor friends of resources, the group has evolved from networking events organised by Queensland MP Milton Dick during the last term of Parliament. ...

The group is understood to include Queensland senator Anthony Chisholm, and Western Australian MPs Matt Keogh and Madeleine King. ...

The group will mirror an existing resources-themed fraternity within federal Coalition ranks, and their parallel existence bucks the convention for most parliamentary "friends of" groups to be bipartisan. ...

News this week ... from previous page

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/commentary/old-king-coal-rules-the-road-to-clermont/news-story/016e107f-87c0281fde096955b2c1115e>

Old King Coal rules the road to Clermont

Matt Canavan, *The Australian*, 06/06/2019

A couple of months ago Bob Brown thought it was a fantastic idea to invade Queensland with an army of hypocritical and condescending activists. ...

In light of the emphatic support for mining jobs at the election, now is the time to restore common sense to the centre of our nation's resources policy. ...

I often recognise the past leadership shown by former Labor resources ministers such as Martin Ferguson, Gary Gray and even as far back as Paul Keating, who spent a formative time as opposition resources spokesman some decades ago. ...

A week is a long time in politics and it was amazing to see Labor MPs jump over themselves to support mining and coal in the week after the election. It is a shame that it has taken a threat to their own jobs to support employment in mining. ...

• *Matt Canavan is Resources and Northern Australia Minister.*

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/rendezview/its-time-for-the-coalition-to-defy-climate-expectations/news-story/8b7f748f40b22e770fb6672e5304d97c>

It's time for the Coalition to defy climate expectations

Will Graham, *Courier-Mail*, 05/06/2019

I'm a proud big-hat wearing central Queensland. My family has grazed livestock here since the 1880s and you'll never find me anywhere else.

I'm also a paid up member of the Liberal-National Party. ...

The Coalition only scraped into office with far less than 50 per cent of the primary vote this time around. Right now, much to probably many people's surprise, I'm not basking in their return to power (on the back of smaller party preferences). And I don't think you should be either.

As a grazier, I pride myself on my role as a land custodian. I diligently manage our vegetation, encouraging trees along riparian zones and promoting biodiversity. We carefully manage our grazing, endeavouring to lock carbon in our soils to increase the microfauna and hydrological structure. ...

As a conservative, I find it hard to understand why conservation and



The QRC's pro-mining rally in Brisbane on June 6. Photo: Matt Canavan, Facebook

the sustainable management of our resource base seems so foreign to our elected representatives. ...

Right now, Australia stands at a crossroads. My party, the Coalition Party, can go down in history as a bunch of coal-waving climate change denying sceptics, or we can rise to the occasion.

We can defy all expectations and live up to the true conservative values of looking after our natural resources ...

• *Will Graham is a fifth generation Emerald grazier and a Farmers for Climate Action supporter.*

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/mayor-and-business-leaders-join-rally-to-support-new-coal-mines/news-story/4a5be19434e5798642b7eda7d5295f7a>

Mayor and business leaders join rally to support new coal mines

Tony Raggatt, *Townsville Bulletin*, 07/06/2019

Leading Townsville business and community identities have taken their fight for coal mining and jobs to the state's

capital, joining a Queenslanders Unite rally outside Parliament House.

While the theme of the rally, organised by the Queensland Resources Council, was about uniting the state and its regions on Queensland Day, for the Townsville contingent it was a chance to ram home the message that it wants to see Adani's Carmichael mine approved and the Galilee Basin opened to coal mining.

Queensland Resources Council CEO Ian Macfarlane said there was now a realisation after the federal election and the Bob Brown anti-Adani convoy of the need to support the resources industry and the regions.

He said there had been delays to approvals for Adani and the New Hope Group's Acland mine but that recent events had allowed the State Government to reset the agenda.

FFB

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



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