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KNITTING NANNAS AGAINST GAS

Fossil Fool Bulletin

Fossil fools in the spotlight this week: A resource for people working to end the fossil fuel era in Australia

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FFB 2:41 • 20 SEPTEMBER 2019

Strike draws 300 thousand

Today's strike for climate action, happening as Fossil Fool Bulletin went to publication, was a massive success.

Around 100,000 people turned out in Melbourne, 50,000 in Sydney, up to 6,000 in Byron Bay, 10,000 in Perth, 1,500 in Cairns and 500 in Alice Springs – 300,000 nationwide.

Officially registered demonstrations were held in all eight capital cities and 104 other towns around Australia.

The protests, inspired by activist Greta Thunberg, were set to roll around the globe over the next 24 hours.

What protesters want

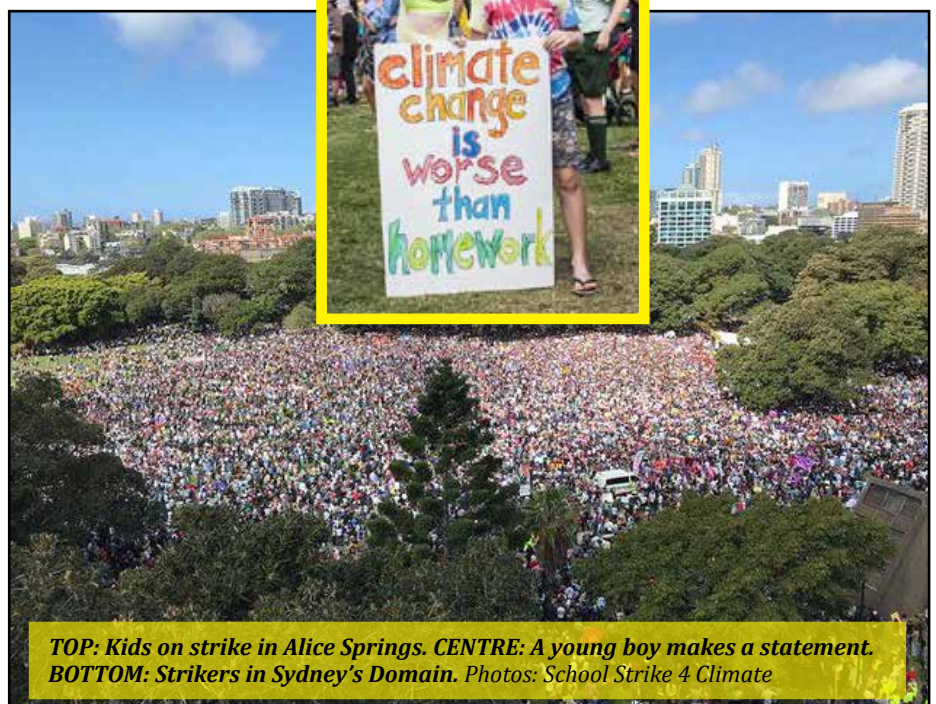
Australian school protesters want the federal government to commit to:

- No new coal, oil or gas projects;
- 100% renewable energy generation and exports by 2030;
- Funding for 'a just transition and job creation for all fossil-fuel industry workers and communities'.

More than 2,500 Australian businesses signed up to participate in the action, many closing their doors so employees could attend rallies. Thirty unions supported the strike.

Despite hostility from many conservative politicians and the Murdoch media, the protest action was a resounding success.

No matter what government figures say, they can't ignore such a strong declaration from school kids and their supporters.



TOP: Kids on strike in Alice Springs. CENTRE: A young boy makes a statement. BOTTOM: Strikers in Sydney's Domain. Photos: School Strike 4 Climate

FFB

• P2: Bylong Valley saved from coalmine

• P3: Santos signs Perdaman gasfield deal

• P5: Adani stalks Traditional Owners

Bylong Valley saved from coalmine



By Eve Sinton

In an historic victory, the Bylong Valley Protection Alliance, represented by the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO NSW), was thrilled by the Independent Planning Commission's rejection Kepco's proposed greenfield Bylong coal mine this week.

David Morris, EDO NSW CEO, said, "This is another significant step towards avoiding dangerous climate change. We assisted our client, the Bylong Valley Protection Alliance, to put forward equivalent expert evidence to that relied on by the Land and Environment Court when it refused the Rocky Hill coal mine at Gloucester in February.

"It is clearer than ever that the Rocky Hill judgment sets a best-practice standard when considering new fossil fuel developments. This mine would have been even bigger – in fact much bigger – than Rocky Hill, with concomitantly bigger carbon impacts. In helping to stop this development, we acted in the public interest to constrain emissions and climate change impacts."

Adverse effects outweigh short-term gain

Warwick Pearse, Secretary of the Bylong Valley Protection Alliance, said, "The IPC is to be applauded for recognising the need to consider the climate impacts of new coal projects. The serious threats to water and agriculture in the Bylong Valley have also been recognised by the IPC and they have decided that the long term, adverse and irreversible effects of coal mining in the Bylong Valley outweigh the short-term gain in local jobs."

Lock the Gate Alliance spokesperson Georgina Woods said, "This is the right decision from the Commission and it shows New South Wales is getting its priorities right, safeguarding strategic farmland and water resources from

destruction and depletion for coal mining.

"The Bylong Valley is a very special place, not just for the farmers that produce wool, beef, and fodder there, but for people around the state that recognise its extraordinary beauty and rich cultural and natural heritage."

The Bylong proposal was for both open-cut and underground longwall mining. Kepco claimed the mine would inject more than \$300 million into the state economy, extracting 120 million tonnes of coal over 25 years, and would have created 650 jobs during construction and 450 during production

The proposed mine had been recommended for approval by the then NSW Department of Planning and Environment, which makes the IPC refusal particularly notable.

What the IPC found

In its Statement of Reasons for Decision, the Commission found (in summary):

- the groundwater impacts would be unacceptable;
- no evidence to support the Applicant's claim that impacted Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (BSAL) can be rehabilitated post-mining to BSAL-equivalent;
- given the expected level of disturbance to the existing natural landscape, the Commission does not consider that a recreated landscape post-mining will retain the same aesthetic, scenic, heritage and natural values; and
- greenhouse gas aspects of the Project remain problematical.

"The Project is not in the public interest because it is contrary to the principles of ESD (ecologically sustainable development) – namely intergen-

ABOVE: Bylong Valley.

BELOW: Heritage-listed Tarwyn Park, where natural sequence farming was pioneered. Now owned by Kepco, its future is uncertain.

Photos: Lock the Gate



erational equity because the predicted economic benefits would accrue to the present generation but the long-term environmental, heritage and agricultural costs will be borne by the future generations," the Commission said.

Reports today from Korean news agencies suggesting Kepco appears unlikely to make any appeal against the IPC's decision.

The company says it has not decided whether it would file an administrative action, resubmit the application, or entirely abandon the project.

13,000 ha bought up by Kepco

On Wednesday Muswellbrook mayor Martin Rush called on the NSW Government to start immediate talks with Kepco about the future of 13,000 hectares of Bylong Valley farmland bought by the company, in what Warwick Pearse called the "silencing of dissent" because of gag orders.

Amongst Kepco's purchases in the valley is the historic Tarwyn Park property where natural sequence farming was pioneered.

Santos hopes Perdaman deal will prop up Narrabri gasfield

By David C Paul

Last week in Narrabri, Santos signed a 'heads of agreement' with Perdaman to "... further study and design a Perdaman ammonium production facility". It will use methane gas produced from Santos' as yet unapproved Narrabri Gas Project.

According to Kevin Gallagher, CEO and Managing Director of Santos, speaking at the signing of the agreement, the Narrabri Gas Project is able to provide enough gas to supply up to half of NSW's needs, while the agreement for Perdaman is for the supply of 14.5 PJ/y of coal seam gas over a 20-year period, subject to of course, the ultimate approval of the project by the NSW Government.

It is proposed that the plant, to be located near Narrabri, is to use both 'appraisal and early-development gas', exploiting the current loophole in NSW planning controls which allows gas retrieved under an exploration licence to be used commercially.

Such a strategy would potentially allow further development of gas sites under the exploration licence, allowing a 'backdoor' avenue for commercial development as long as the use of the gas was deemed to be 'beneficial'. The plant would also use further gas from the Narrabri Project to provide electricity for it to operate.

And of course, the ammonium plant is a job winner, we are told it is expected to support at least 700 jobs during construction and 100 direct and 100 indirect ongoing jobs. Additionally, the gas project is ideally placed for new manufacturing projects as it is near to the new Inland Rail, which "... links key east coast ports and the national highway system".

Who is Perdaman?

But who is Perdaman and why is an ammonium nitrate plant desirable in this rural setting?

Perdaman is a diversified corporation, with a produce and service range that includes pharmaceuticals, analytical labs, energy, commercial properties, fund management, and the curiously



Perdaman Chairman Vikas Rambal in the company's Perth HQ. Photo: Perdaman

named 'Global Services'. Perdaman Global Services (formerly Perdaman ISA Group) – an immigration and overseas recruitment firm with, "... a strong track record in providing visa and immigration services not only to individuals, but to businesses of all sizes...."

Perdaman has Woodside contract

The corporation is based in Western Australia but has offices in the UK, Singapore, India, the Philippines and China. The fertiliser arm of corporation, Perdaman Industries (Chemicals & Fertilisers) is said to have its "... current focus on the production of urea, the most commonly traded nitrogenous fertiliser." In fact, this is a new area of business for Perdaman with only one contract so far in this sector, recently awarded in partnership with Woodside in WA.

Perdaman claims the total investment for the WA urea plant and other infrastructure will be of the order of \$4 billion. The project is expected to produce two million tons of urea per annum, most of which will be exported. Perdaman sees the international urea fertiliser business expanding worldwide with and foreseeing increasing demand for agricultural products and a future shortage of fertilisers.

Urea also has the benefit of being safe and easily transported, though is volatile in air and tends to leak Nitrogen, a major limitation of the product. The same can be said for ammonium nitrate, the key product of the Narrabri plant. While it is relatively stable to move and handle, it is also a key ingre-

dient for explosives, and has resulted in serious explosions at ammonium nitrate facilities in the US.

On top of this the volume of gas proposed for use by Perdaman, 14.5 PJ/yr (or 14 500TJ/y), equates to approximately 20% of Santos's total production at full capacity – stated often by Gallagher at being up to half the state's yearly supply needs, which is around 200TJ/day (or 73 000/ TJ/yr). Of course, full production is not likely to be reached in the near future, and as mentioned earlier, Santos and Perdaman are hoping to commence the ammonium plant operation at a reduced capacity. Under this situation the proportion of gas produced by Santos siphoned off by Perdaman could be considerably more than 20% of the total.

Fertiliser plant will suck up the gas

All this seriously questions the rhetoric by Gallagher on the ability of Santos to supply half the states gas needs from Narrabri if this Perdaman deal goes ahead. 'Massaging the figures' as it were, a practice not unknown to the gas sector. Not that the gas was ever intended for the domestic market.

Perhaps a reason for the likely export outcome for Perdaman's products is the situation of the local market with a large number of existing suppliers of nitrogen products including urea and ammonium-based fertilisers and various blends. This demand is not likely to increase given Australia's gloomy outlook for agricultural production. Big players in the manufacture and

Santos signs fertiliser deal hoping for Narrabri approval

• Continued from p3

wholesale of fertiliser products in Australia are dominated by two who obtain product from the gas sector are Incitec Pivot and Koch Industries.

So Perdaman, which started as a small visa bridging company in 2001, has been successful enough to diversify into a number of multinational portfolios, of which fertilisers is the latest and as yet, unproven component.

Founding Chairman and Managing Director, Vikas Rambal has attempted other fertiliser projects before. Rambal, the Perdaman website states, has a "... proven track record in delivering world-class businesses." However, his corporate history in Australia has not been without controversy.

Indian-born, Rambal's career started at Bharat Petroleum (formerly Shell). He then established a range of projects including refineries and the manufacture of fertilisers.

Moving to Western Australia in 2000 he focused on the use methane gas for downstream industry, particularly the manufacture of ammonia for the international fertiliser market. From there his empire grew and diversified.

Former partner fled the country

However, Rambal's first incursions into the fertiliser business ran into trouble, with his first project, the Burrup ammonia fertiliser plant. Rambal was forced to exit following a bitter split with his former business partner Pan-kaj Oswal.

Oswal ran Burrup Fertilisers until he ran into trouble with his creditor the ANZ Bank where it was alleged Oswal siphoned \$150 million from the business for his personal use and he forged European security documents for Australian loans, which Mrs Oswal confirmed in court.

He later sued and fled the country in 2010 with his family.

Rambal's \$87.4 million payout as result of the Burrup ammonium plant affair in 2007 brought him into conflict with the ATO. The matter was solved out of court, but the timing of the affair created much doubt about his next project, his plans for a \$3.5 billion coal to urea fertiliser plant near Collie.

The Collie project was halted in 2011 after Perdaman became embroiled in a legal dispute with one of the region's



Santos CEO Kevin Gallagher and Perdaman Chairman Vikas Rambal signed a Heads of Agreement during a visit to Narrabri last week. Photo: Perdaman

two coal miners, Griffin Coal, owned by Indian company Lanco Infratech.

The WA Government subsequently took this project off their books in 2018. With considerable loss to the taxpayer.

After having walked away from his first two fertiliser ventures Rambal then partnered with Woodside in 2018 for a new urea plant, also to be built on the Burrup Peninsula. Amid the glowing announcements, *The West Australian* reported that the plant and MoU was Woodside's latest attempt to 'develop new demand for gas' highlighting the fact that this gas is not in short supply in WA.

This Woodside-backed Project seems to have the relevant approvals now and is planned to go ahead, amid concerns of possible impacts on the local cultural heritage of the Burrup Peninsula, along with all the other development of the area. Concerns that Rambal has not taken the time to comment on.

What makes the Santos-Perdaman agreement different from that undertaken with Woodside is that there is no real over-supply of gas for Perdaman to utilise at Narrabri without a significant cut in the output from the new field, which is likely to be limited. How the economics of this operation stack up under these circumstances is not clear.

There is no increasing demand for agricultural fertiliser product in this country which also raises questions about its final use, if not exported, then perhaps for the mining industry where it would be invaluable to assist further mining expansion in the region.

Interestingly, neither Gallagher nor Rambal mentioned what the ammonium nitrate is to be used for at their media exercise last week.

As this review has shown, there are also questions to be answered regarding the propriety of the owners of Perdaman and their ability to deliver on this project without some kind of major financial scandal taking place.

All in all, there seem to be big question marks on the need and viability of this project. In balance it seems this is just another way Santos have attempted to enhance the market value of the Narrabri Gas Project and also its 'approvability'. The future of the Narrabri Gas Project, however, still hangs in the balance.

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Bob Brown Foundation launches book, movie

The Bob Brown Foundation is embarking on a nationwide campaign to bolster ongoing campaign actions to Stop Adani, with the launch of their new film and book, Convoy.

The film premiere and book launch of *Convoy* will be held at Hobart's State Cinema on Thursday 3 October at 6pm, followed by a series of events from Albury-Wodonga to Canberra, through the Murray-Darling Basin and into Brisbane in the last weeks of October. Bob Brown will update people about Adani's activities here in Australia and globally, and most importantly, how they can take action.

The film, *Convoy*, is about the power of peaceful protest, and of individuals, to make a difference. It shows what motivates people to take a stand and empower others to do the same.

The accompanying book has inspirational speeches from Stop Adani Convoy rallies, including acclaimed author Richard Flanagan, Aboriginal leader Adrian Burragubba, frontline activists Hayley Sestokas and Shane Primrose, Climate Strike organiser Mia Thom, Geoff Cousins, and Christine Milne. The book is a photographic chronicle of the Stop Adani Convoy, an act of mass community defiance and hope.

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Adani stalks W&J Traditional Owners with security guards and on Facebook



Facebook posts from people associated with the W&J Family Council reveal that campers on W&J land, which was handed to Adani by the Queensland government, have dispersed after being surrounded by security guards.

Adani has been stalking participants on social media, attempting to serve one with a court date through Facebook Messenger.

Police are also tracking their movements. A man has been accused of trespass by Adani, but says he flew a drone over the W&J corroboree ground (pictured) from a public road. The drone revealed the site untouched, and a flag still flying.

The group says the fight isn't over, and they'll be back with more supporters.

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WA Waitsia gasfield: Call for community input

The Western Australian EPA must listen to Dongara region farmers and publicly assess the Waitsia Gasfield proposal before bending over backwards for the owners of the project, which will likely require fracking at a future stage.

The expansion of the gasfield has been referred to the Environmental Protection Authority for assessment, and Lock the Gate Alliance in WA is deeply concerned local people have so far not had an opportunity to express their concerns.

The parent company, multinational mining and gas giant Mitsui, already has a production permit for the gasfield, which lies below fertile farmland.

Local landholder Dianne Horne said, "We have already felt the impacts from the initial stages of the Waitsia gasfield, and think we should be provided with the opportunity to be consulted with during the assessment of this gasfield by the EPA.

"We have already had noise, light and air pollution impacts, and are very concerned about the amount of water that will be used, and the risks of ground and surface water contamination, Ms Horne said.

"The Waitsia Gasfield expansion would be a mammoth operation, with huge

amounts of water required, many more wells drilled, a massive new gas processing plant, and a significant increase in traffic.

"Gas in the area has been described in the past as conventional with an unconventional upside, which means we are concerned that Mitsui, or a future owner of the gasfield, would want to frack the wells to co-develop the tighter gas there.

Lock the Gate Mid West coordinator Simone van Hattem said, "Given the significance of the impacts of the gasfield and its future stages, local and regional community members must be able to have a say during a full and comprehensive assessment by the EPA.

"There are wells in the Waitsia area that have previously been fracked. We know there is tight gas there, and the only way to get at it is to frack. It seems likely that that this company will want to frack, and there is nothing to stop it now the moratorium has been lifted, even though the Irwin community has declared since 2015 to remain Gasfield Free, with 98% of those surveyed in support," she said.

"The Waitsia Gasfield will also increase WA's greenhouse gas emissions, and is therefore also of interest to the wider WA community."

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STOP WATER MINING

THE NEXT RESOURCES BATTLE



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

Wangan Jagalingou Traditional Owners
Aboriginal Corporation

BSB: 034-003

Account number: 278038

<https://wanganjagalingou.com.au/donate/>

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Inside the news

Even as the *Townsville Bully* complains about anti-Adani protesters (p7), contractors' insiders are leaking details about their deals with **Adani**. Protests are erupting all over, in a campaign which has amazed and annoyed the **Queensland Resources Council**.

The **Galilee Basin** is up for more fossil fuel assault as **Comet Ridge** and its partner **Vintage Energy** prepare to sink **gaswells** there, hoping to sell their vapours to Adani.

Despite the community's victory in **Bylong**, coal miners worldwide are gearing up for expansion (p10), with 259 companies planning new power stations in 60 countries, which will expand the global coal fleet by 29% if they all see the light of day.

Claims that gas is a low-carbon energy source have earned **Equinor** a rebuke from the UK's ad watchdog. The company has withdrawn offending ads as a result (p11).

The federal government's nuke power submissions period has closed, with conflicting claims over nuclear energy costs from pro and anti-nuclear forces (p12). The **Australian Workers Union** has diverged from **Labor's** anti-nuclear stance and come out in support of developing a nuke industry in Australia.

New Zealand newspaper website **Stuff** has published two interesting stories on climate change (p13-14). Both describe the **state of the country in 2050** – one with more than 1.5 degrees of heating, and the other assuming heating has been limited to less than 1.5. Either way, the country has experienced many disruptions and become a **climate refugee destination**. In the worst scenario wealthy foreigners have taken over an enclave in the South Island, while the less fortunate (many from **Australia**) are holed up in crime-ridden camps. Well worth clicking the link and reading both stories in full!

Government figures like **Matt Canavan**, **Angus Taylor** and **Eric Abetz** continue to vilify climate activists and scientists (p14-16), with harsher penalties for protesters being introduced.

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In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 26,300 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/anti-adani-protesters-disruption-unwelcome/news-story/>

Anti-Adani protesters disruption unwelcome

Jenna Cairney, Townsville Bulletin, 14/09/2019

Instead of growing the support base for this cause or bringing on board the populace, by targeting more and more workers in more and more fields, these activists alienate themselves further and draw the ire of ordinary Australians trying to make an honest living.

They do themselves or their cause no favours and Queensland workers have had a gutful of the almost-daily menace that these protesters have become.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-09-15/adani-contractor-staffer-leaking-to-environmental-protesters/11511410>

Adani mining insider reveals she is leaking material to environmental activists

Josh Robertson, ABC, 15/09/2019

A worker at a company bidding for an Adani contract has told the ABC she is leaking inside information to environmental activists so they can target her employer.

'Sue', a long-time mining services industry worker who has asked to remain anonymous, said she was willing to risk her career for "the opportunity to provide information that could help to stop the [Carmichael] mine proceeding".

Ben Pennings from Galilee Blockade said they now had almost "too much information" from insiders after their "dob in a contractor" campaign.

"Any company siding with Adani is taking massive risks with regards to their brand and reputation and maybe even their profits."

QRC chief Ian Macfarlane said the industry had seen "nothing as concentrated and as organised" as the current campaign against would-be Adani contractors.

"The activists will stop at nothing to destroy jobs," Mr Macfarlane said.

Pennings said the number of people giving activists information had been "refreshing".



A group of 30 people disrupted work for four hours on September 18 at the site of Adani's Carmichael mine. The group blocked the gates of Adani's workers' camp, stopping workers from entering the proposed mine site. The group declared that with Prime Minister Scott Morrison set to snub the United Nations Climate Action Summit next week, there is an urgent need for everyday people to take action and stop the construction of new coal mines. Photo: FLAC

"We know all sorts of information, because people who work for those companies have been brave enough and concerned citizens," he said.

"We know who is bidding for the PE pipeline for Adani's mine, who wants to dig the pipeline, and put it towards the dewatering dam, who's going to be doing the box cut for the mine.

"We're going to let those companies know that we've got the information and we expect them to get out of bed with Adani," Pennings said.

"We believe that Adani will never have social licence, and it's going to be really difficult for them to ever get this mine operational."

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/business/frontline-action-on-coal-activists-target-iplx-and-vinidex-offices/news-story/196d16c9cadde3cb029c9236b7aeb425>

Frontline Action on Coal activists target Iplex and Vinidex offices

Keagan Elder, Townsville Bulletin, 16/09/2019

A group of 20 anti-Adani protesters blocked worker access to the offices of two potential Adani contractors in Townsville.

Frontline Action on Coal (FLAC) protesters called on Iplex and Vinidex

to reject work on the controversial Carmichael mine.

The activist group claim both piping companies submitted tenders for the Polyethylene piping contract on Adani's project.

No one was charged with protesters moving away after being issued a move on direction by police.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/sep/18/fracking-plans-near-adani-coalmine-raise-new-environmental-fears>

Fracking plans near Adani coalmine raise new environmental fears

Ben Smees, Guardian, 18/09/2019

Queensland gas company Comet Ridge plans to begin fracking at two exploratory wells close to the Adani Carmichael mine site later this year, and hopes production can begin "early" to service nearby mining projects.

Gas explorers appear to have increased the pace of their planning and activities in the Galilee Basin during the past year as the Carmichael mine has passed key milestones.

Federal government studies have warned that fracking could "modify aquifer properties" in the Galilee,

and environmentalists say they are concerned that gas extraction will compound the impacts of coalmining on water resources.

Comet Ridge's joint venture partner, Vintage Energy, has previously promoted its proximity and the fact Adani "will require gas to power its operations".

In a statement Adani said it had plans in place to provide energy for Carmichael operations and that these "do not contemplate the use of natural gas".

The Lock the Gate Queensland spokesperson Ellie Smith said, "The exploration well's proximity to ... precious water resources and to the planned Adani Carmichael coal mine and other slated Galilee mega coal mines is deeply concerning given the likely cumulative impacts on water resources."

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/annastacia-palaszczuk-hails-official-bowen-basin-coal-mine-opening-as-a-great-day-for-queensland-jobs/news-story/77f836aa7ab17d2ae8c2d9843a829522>

Annastacia Palaszczuk hails official Bowen Basin coal mine opening as a great day for Queensland, jobs

Sarah Vogler, Michael Wray, Courier-Mail, 17/09/2019

A new Bowen Basin coal mine on track to create almost 1,000 jobs will be officially opened today, with Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk hailing it a "great day for Queensland".

The \$1.76 billion Byerwen project – a joint venture between Queensland-based QCoal and Japanese company JFE Steel – exported its first metallurgical coal to the Fukuyama steel works in Japan in January.

<https://www.theage.com.au/national/queensland/farmers-fight-south-east-queensland-mine-for-water-20190916-p52rpa.html>

Farmers fight south-east Queensland mine for water

Aaron Bunch, Age, 16/09/2019

Drought-stricken Queensland farmers fighting to stop a controversial coal project they say threatens their water supply are refusing to give up despite the failure of a major legal challenge.

Graziers behind the Oakey Coal Action Alliance say they'll continue battling the [New Acland] mine, which they fear could deplete or contaminate underground water supplies in the area.

"It's bone dry out here and we're completely reliant on that water," local

cattleman and former OCAA president Frank Ashman said.

"We have no choice but to fight to protect it."

Ashman said about 75 farming families and businesses could be adversely affected by the expansion.

"It's not just the water we're fighting to save; hundreds of agricultural jobs could be lost if these aquifers are plundered," he said.

<https://www.watoday.com.au/business/companies/tide-is-turning-coal-company-accuses-activists-of-costing-jobs-20190917-p52s2d.html>

Tide is turning: Coal company accuses activists of costing jobs

Nick Toscano, WA Today, 18/09/2019

Coal miner New Hope Group has accused anti-coal activists of undermining investment through the use of court cases to delay approvals for major projects, including the company's long-delayed expansion of a mine in southern Queensland.

Releasing the company's financial results on Tuesday, chairman Robert Millner also predicted demand for its thermal coal, although volatile, will be strengthened by developing Asian countries' expanding need for the fossil fuel as an energy source.

"Over 150 million people in India lack access to electricity," Millner said.

"How do the anti-coal activists morally justify withholding the benefits of affordable electricity from so many people?"

His comments come as New Hope unveiled a record net profit after tax before one-off items of \$210.7 million for the year to the end of July.

That was up 41% on the \$149 million result the previous year.

Millner complained of "impediments to growth" caused by "over-regulation" of the Australian resources industry".

Aileen Harrison, a spokeswoman for the Oakey Coal Action Alliance, said members of the group were "not activists ... we are farmers, graziers, who are trying to keep the land and water for all our future generations".

"We value our food and our water and our land and we are not giving up," she said.

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/more-than-20-000-extra-mining-workers-needed-by-2024-report-20190916-p52rql.html>

More than 20,000 extra mining workers needed by 2024: report

Dana McCauley, SMH, 17/09/2019

The mining industry's peak body has predicted 20,767 more workers will be needed in the next five years and called on government and business to "learn our lessons from the past" to prevent a skills shortage.

Australian Resources and Energy Group's forecast draws on official data relating to the 57 mining projects – worth about \$41 billion – in the "committed" or "likely to proceed" phases, and takes into account the impact of automation and expected mine closures.

It includes 5714 mining jobs in Queensland, but attributes only 800 to the Adani mine. Coal mines make up nine of the 57 projects nationally (16%), seven of which are either thermal coal or a mix of thermal and coking.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-09-17/longwall-mining-impact-on-drinking-water/11519970>

Sydney, Illawarra drinking water catchment under threat as mining takes toll on key wetlands

Ainslie Drewitt-Smith & Justin Huntsdale, ABC, 17/09/2019

Sydney's drinking water catchment is under threat from longwall mining operations, with research confirming upland swamps and streams are drying out.

A study conducted by the University of New South Wales has revealed that the impact of mining operations south of Sydney are becoming more widespread.

Mining company South32 wants to extend the life of its Dendrobium Colliery, south of Sydney, where it extracts 5.2 million tonnes of coking coal each year for steel-making.

Duncan Rayner, the principal engineer at the UNSW Water Research Laboratory, said the company's existing operations beneath the water catchment have undermined some of the upland swamp's sandstone beds, meaning many of them can no longer store water.

"What we're seeing from swamps that are undermined, or that have had longwall mining going underneath them, is that those swamps no longer hold water.



A creek drained of water by the underlying Dendrobium Mine. Photo: Julie Sheppard

“Their underlying sandstone is cracked and the swamps have dried out.”

Julie Sheppard from the National Parks Association has been observing and reviewing the impact of mining operations in the area since 2005 and said there is no way to repair the damage to the swamps.

“The repair of the cracked bases of the swamps has never been done — there is no example of this having ever been done, so they don’t know how to do it,” she said.

“And yet we’re continuing to allow mining in a water supply area that is incredibly important to the people of greater Sydney and the projected increase in population in greater Sydney.

“It does upset me greatly.

“It’s dispiriting and depressing and frustrating and makes me very angry.”

In its submission to the independent Expert Panel for Mining in the Catchment, Water New South Wales said its opposed to operations at the Dendrobium Colliery being extended.

“WaterNSW holds the firm view that no further longwall mining should be approved within the Special Areas with dimensions of the size currently undertaken at the Dendrobium mine,” a WaterNSW spokesman said.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-09-18/bylong-coal-mine-proposal-knocked-back/11523856>

NSW’s Bylong coal mine proposal knocked back on ‘environmental impacts’

Liv Casben, ABC, 18/09/2019

The multi-million-dollar Bylong Valley coal mine has been refused development consent by an independent planning panel, citing concerns about “long-lasting environmental, agricultural and heritage impacts”.

South Korean company Kepco was behind the project, north-east of Mudgee, and claimed it would inject more than \$300 million into the state economy, extracting 120 million tonnes of coal over 25 years.

The mine – which Kepco claimed would have created 650 jobs during construction and 450 during production – was referred to the NSW Independent Planning Commission for determination in October last year on the back of significant community opposition.

The Commission acknowledged the mine’s economic and social benefits, but said it was not in the public interest as it was contrary to the principles of “ecologically sustainable development”.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/huge-bylong-coal-mine-blocked-due-to-long-term-environmental-impacts-99532/>

Huge Bylong coal mine blocked due to long-term environmental impacts

Michael Mazengarb, Renew Economy, 18/09/2019

The NSW Independent Planning Commission has refused development approval for the Bylong Coal mine, citing the long term impacts the mine would have had on the state’s environmental, heritage and agricultural values, in another key ruling that further dents the viability of new coal projects.

The significant decision, which goes against advice from the NSW Department of Planning and Environment which supported the thermal coal project and recommended its approval, is another substantial slap down of proposed coal mines in NSW following an earlier ruling against the Rocky Hill project.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/one-generator-operational-at-loy-yang-coal-fired-energy-plant/news-story/221c62e6e08df8b9aeca4602498787ed>

One generator operational at Loy Yang coal fired energy plant

Remy Varga, Aus, 17/09/2019

Only one generator out of four is currently operational at Victoria’s largest coal fired energy plant as temperatures warm across the state with the arrival of Spring.

Unit three at Loy Yang A was knocked out yesterday morning due to a tube leak with hopes it will be back and running in about four days while unit one is undergoing scheduled service to prepare for peak demand during summer.

Unit two at the Loy Yang A power station has been undergoing repairs since May 18 and is expected to be ready to go in time for Summer.

The Australian Energy Market Operator said they were not concerned by the three generators currently offline.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/nsw-planning-commission-rejects-kepco-bylong-thermal-coal-project/news-story/0414178ba58443fd9ffacf-c10b70dfb3>

NSW planning commission rejects Kepco Bylong thermal coal project

Perry Williams, Aus, 18/09/2019

A NSW coal mine was rejected by the state's planning commission due to "problematical" concerns on climate change and fears over long-lasting damage to groundwater and agricultural land.

Reasons given for its decision include "greenhouse gas aspects of the project remain problematical", unacceptable groundwater impacts and concerns over the site's future rehabilitation.

The Battle for Bylong group said "Kepco got kicked back to Korea" while the Environmental Defenders Office said the tide was turning and said the Rocky Hill litigation earlier this year changed the legal landscape on climate.

<https://www.theland.com.au/story/6392925/intergenerational-inequity-bylong-coal-mine-dead-and-buried/>

Intergenerational inequity: Bylong coal mine dead and buried

Mike Foley, The Land, 18/09/2019

After years of community opposition, the controversial plan to dig an open-cut coal mine in the Bylong Valley has been rejected by NSW government's independent planning authority.

The Independent Planning Commission (IPC) said Korean miner Kepco's project would load an unfair environmental burden on future generations.

The Bylong mine would have disrupted the floodplain occupied by the historic Tarwyn Park property where Natural Sequence Farming was born.

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/planning-commission-rejects-2b-bylong-valley-coal-mine/news-story/0d0e9a667e711bdf77a281d435b5a4bf>

Planning Commission rejects Bylong Valley coal mine

Matthew Benns, Daily Telegraph, 18/09/2019

The future of the \$2 billion NSW coal industry has been put at risk by bureaucratic pen pushers who yesterday cited "long-lasting environmental" impacts to knock back a new coal mine in the state's central west.

Green groups hailed the "game changing decision" on coal while local businesses relying on the multimillion-dollar Bylong Valley coal mine to generate badly needed jobs have vowed to shut up shop.



Furious Deputy Premier John Barilaro said: "This latest decision presents an opportunity to reform the Independent Planning Commission's decision-making process."

The decision also puts in jeopardy the 25 coal projects stuck in the planning pipeline which the government hoped would maintain mining royalty revenue which is expected to hit \$2 billion in the next financial year.

<https://www.afr.com/companies/mining/mining-industry-lashes-out-as-nsw-blocks-bylong-coal-project-20190918-p52sng>

Mining industry lashes out as NSW blocks Bylong coal project

Brad Thompson, AFR, 18/09/2019

The NSW Minerals Council says the state is in danger of becoming an international investment laughing stock after the Independent Planning Commission blocked development of a major coal mine.

The IPC cited climate change and a related landmark NSW court ruling as factors in rejecting South Korea company KEPCO's plans for the Bylong coal mine near Mudgee.

KEPCO said it was disappointed and was assessing the ruling on a project it had touted as a shot in the arm for the NSW economy that would create 650 jobs in the construction phase.

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/kiss-of-life-biggest-coal-miners-g geared-for-growth-elevating-climate-risks-report-20190919-p52swt.html>

Kiss of life: Biggest coal miners geared for growth, elevating climate risks, report

Peter Hannam, SMH, 19/09/2019

More than half the world's largest coal companies are planning for expansion even as competition from renewable energy rises and financiers shy from backing fossil fuels.

That's the key finding in the Global Coal Exit List, released ahead of Friday's international strikes for climate action.

Some 259 companies are planning or developing power stations in 60 nations, many of which have little or no coal-fired power. Those projects would add 579,000 megawatts, or increase total coal fleet capacity by 29 per cent if developed.

China topped the list of nations with the largest coal plants in the pipeline, with some 226,229MW of capacity planned.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/sep/19/it-was-an-ideal-place-for-our-children-to-grow-up-but-the-coal-mine-has-silenced-our-school-yard>

It was an ideal place for our children to grow up – but the coalmine has silenced our schoolyard

Alison Smiles-Schmidt, Guardian, 19/09/2019

In the New South Wales town of Wollar you can't hear children laughing in the

school playground any more. Coal has silenced the schoolyard, coated the remaining houses in a layer of dust and cut off the future of our community, just as it is doing to our children's future on a global scale.

When the world takes part in the climate strike on Friday, those with a remaining connection to Wollar will strike too, at the empty local school.

Our school is empty because the state and federal governments put coal above the needs of our children, allowing Peabody's coalmine expansions to swallow up this town.

350 people once lived in Wollar, before Peabody's Wilpinjong coalmine was allowed to destroy the countryside and our town.

As the Wilpinjong coalmine expanded, families moved out of Wollar. The mining company bought the shop and bought out locals. This process of negotiation was very stressful. People were asked to sign confidentiality agreements, pitching the community against each other. During this process people became ill, divorced and displaced.

• *Alison Smiles-Schmidt used to work at Wollar school. She is the manager of a nursery in Mudgee*

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/agl-opts-to-hold-on-to-coal-plants/news-story/6bada-ce282439e0704bbb29f1dbb0da9>

AGL opts to hold on to coal plants

Perry Williams, Aus, 20/09/2019

AGL Energy has rejected a sizeable shareholder vote calling for it to bring forward the planned closure of its coal power plants, arguing it needs to balance the emissions goals of the Paris climate accord with the reality of ensuring the power grid stages an orderly transition away from the fossil fuel.

Activist group Market Forces lobbied a resolution that called for the company to quit coal by 2030, in line with the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels. While it attracted a 30 per cent vote by investors, AGL said it would not leap to any sudden changes.

"The Paris accord is an agreement between countries, not an agreement that binds companies," AGL chairman Graeme Hunt said following its annual general meeting in Sydney on Thursday.

"We will close our coal-fired power stations at the end of their economic

life and continue to invest in renewables. If we do those things our emissions will fall over time."

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/rba-backs-ministers-push-for-thermal-coal-market-sales-to-india/news-story/6d75ed7f8b8d917c7a650eae-1ce8b53b>

RBA backs minister's push for thermal coal market sales to India

Nick Evans, Aus, 20/09/2019

The Reserve Bank has backed Resource Minister Matt Canavan's push for coal sales to India, saying Southeast Asia and India could play an important role in bolstering thermal coal exports as more traditional markets move away from coal-fired power stations.

But in a new report published on Thursday, Reserve Bank researchers say Australian energy coal producers face an increasingly uncertain market as mature economies look elsewhere for their energy needs.

OIL & GAS LEAKS

<https://www.ft.com/content/788005cc-d3e9-11e9-8367-807ebd53ab77>

Gas is 'not a low-carbon fuel', UK watchdog rules

Harry Dempsey, Financial Times, 16/09/2019

Equinor should not have implied gas was environmentally friendly energy source. UK regulators have issued a warning to Norwegian energy giant Equinor over advertisements on the London Underground that implied gas is a "low-carbon energy" source.

Murray Worthy, senior campaigner at Global Witness, the NGO, lodged the complaint.

The resolution delivers a blow to attempts by fossil fuel companies to portray gas to politicians and the public as environmentally friendly and part of the solution to climate change. Mr Worthy pointed to evidence from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, saying that gas has the third-highest carbon dioxide emissions intensity of commercially available technologies.

This is not the first time that ASA has dealt with fossil fuel companies promoting the environmental credentials of gas, as the ad watchdog banned ExxonMobil in 2008 from claiming that it is "one of the world's cleanest fuels" in a TV advertisement and ruled in 2018 that Ineos could not claim that gas produced by fracking has 10 per cent less emissions than imported gas.

<https://www.theage.com.au/business/companies/exxonmobil-puts-victorian-oil-and-gas-assets-up-for-sale-20190918-p52snb.html>

ExxonMobil puts Victorian oil and gas assets up for sale

Nick Toscano, Rob Harris & Mathew Dunckley, Age, 18/09/2019

Global oil and gas giant ExxonMobil has put its assets in Victoria's Bass Strait on the market.

The assets, which ExxonMobil subsidiary Esso Australia owns in a joint venture with miner BHP Group, include 19 offshore platforms, the Longford and Long Island Point plants and associated infrastructure and production fields, the company said.

ExxonMobil said operations would continue as normal during the sale process.

An energy industry source, who declined to be named due to legal restrictions, said there were a number of challenges to the Bass Strait operation that would require heavy capital expenditure for returns that would not be appealing to a company the size of ExxonMobil.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/woodside-chief-peter-coleman-says-gas-risks-going-same-way-as-coal/news-story/4b55d27b2c28d94efa-60c4a04148eaf4>

Woodside chief Peter Coleman says gas risks going same way as coal

Perry Williams, Aus, 18/09/2019

The gas industry risks going the same way as coal unless it does more on emissions, energy giant Woodside Petroleum says.

"One cataclysmic weather event" attributed to climate change could see governments force companies to cut emissions at a level they are unprepared for, Woodside chief Peter Coleman told US investors.

Pausing to wait for more climate change science would be the wrong decision, Coleman said.

"For the sake of future generations, for the sake of the planet, we need to find a way to deliver extra energy with fewer emissions."

The West Australian LNG producer has been among the most vocal agitators for a carbon price, which would allow it to better assess the cost of reducing emissions amidst unprecedented pressure from shareholders to boost the company's environmental credentials.

But at the same time, Woodside has also resisted ambitious carbon offset rules floated by the West Australian

government, arguing the zero emissions guidelines would hobble a lucrative pipeline of looming investment decisions.

NUKE MADNESS

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/sep/16/environmental-groups-warn-against-push-for-nuclear-power-in-australia>

Environmental groups warn against push for nuclear power in Australia

Paul Karp, *Guardian*, 16/09/2019

Environmental and civil society groups have warned the government nuclear power has “no role” in Australia as crossbench independents urge it to recognise climate change as a health issue.

On Monday submissions to the inquiry on nuclear power closed. A diverse group of stakeholders has called on the government to rule-out changing the law to allow nuclear energy in Australia.

Signatories to the statement include union peak bodies, the Public Health Association of Australia, Uniting and Catholic church organisations, the Smart Energy Council, the Aboriginal-led Australian Nuclear Free Alliance, climate action groups, Greenpeace Australia Pacific and the Australian Conservation Foundation.

The anti-nuclear group warned it is “a dangerous distraction from real movement on the pressing energy decisions and climate actions we need”.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/lift-ban-on-nuclear-for-cheaper-power-minerals-council/news-story/1c69d149fe9557e0965d666e2461a2ed>

Lift ban on nuclear for cheaper power: Minerals Council

Matthew Killoran, *Courier-Mail*, 16/09/2019

The bans on nuclear power and uranium mining should be lifted and mini nuclear reactors rolled to provide “the cheapest zero-emission power”, replacing ageing coal-fired generators, the Minerals Council says.

It comes as a coalition of organisations, including the ACTU, Public Health Association of Australia, church groups and the Smart Energy Council, dismissed nuclear as a “dangerous distraction” from renewables which creates “long-lived radioactive waste”.

Minerals Council of Australia boss Tania Constable, in a submission to a Parliamentary inquiry, argued establishing a nuclear industry in Australia would create long-term, high-paying



Nuclear dreaming – a design for a small modular reactor proposed by NuScale.
Graphic: NuScale

jobs, as well as a stable and reliable electricity supply.

She said “small modular reactors”, the latest generation of nuclear power plants, could generate cheap baseload power as ageing coal-fired power stations continue to close.

<https://www.afr.com/companies/energy/mining-industry-predicts-nuclear-will-be-cheapest-power-20190913-p52r29>

Mining industry predicts nuclear will be cheapest power

Aaron Patrick, *AFR*, 16/09/2019

The mining industry has declared that nuclear power could be the cheapest way to generate electricity in the next decade, an audacious claim that advocates of wind and solar power are likely to bitterly dispute.

The chief executive of the Minerals Council of Australia, Tania Constable, said a new generation of compact nuclear reactors should be legalised because they could generate electricity

for as little as \$60 a megawatt hour – which is much less than the \$98.10 average price last year in the renewable pioneer of South Australia, and higher than any other state in the National Electricity Market.

“Apart from existing run-of-water hydro, nuclear is the only energy source capable of providing affordable zero-emissions power 24/7 at industrial scale,” Constable said as part of a submission to a federal inquiry into nuclear power.

The Minerals Council, a mining industry lobby group, based its price calculation on a joint government-business Canadian study of small modular reactors – power plants that can be delivered from a factory by truck or barge. One of the most promising models is scheduled to start operating in the US in 2026.

An energy analyst at the Grattan Institute think tank, Tony Wood, said even based on the Canadian assumptions of a 6% cost of capital and construction costs in Canada, which has well-developed nuclear expertise, the cost of electricity could be higher than the Minerals Council’s estimate.

A projection of Australian power prices by the CSIRO and Australian Energy Market Operator last year estimated that nuclear would cost at least \$250 a megawatt hour for the foreseeable future, which it put at two-and-a-half times the cost of wind and solar power.

The renewable prices were determined assuming they included two hours of back-up storage, which may not be long enough for policymakers. Gas and coal were much cheaper than nuclear in the Australian study, but there is huge pressure to phase them out to reduce greenhouse gases.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/sep/20/nuclear-energy-nationals-mps-welcome-awu-support-for-domestic-industry>

Nuclear energy: Nationals MPs welcome AWU support for domestic industry

Sarah Martin, *Guardian*, 20/09/2019

Nationals MPs have welcomed support from the Australian Workers’ Union for a domestic nuclear industry, as the union calls on progressives not to reject a “zero carbon compromise”.

A House of Representatives committee chaired by Barnaby Joyce will hear from the union during a roundtable discussion in Sydney on Friday, before MPs visit the Lucas Heights nuclear facility for a site visit.

The AWU national secretary, Dan Walton, said the union would tell the roundtable that it was “ludicrous” for Australia to be exporting uranium to the rest of the world while failing to capture the value of the emission-free energy source at home.

CLIMATE CRISIS

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/6384096/im-worried-about-the-future-plea-for-help-comes-in-from-climate-front-line/>

Farmers and conservative voters adding to calls for federal government to declare climate emergency

Scott Hannaford, *Canberra Times*, 16/09/2019

On Monday an unlikely delegation will head to Parliament House to add their voices to a growing chorus calling for an urgent rethink to the government’s current climate change policies.

The group, Farmers for Climate Action, will attempt to present Minister for Agriculture Bridget McKenzie with a petition signed by more than 5000 farmers from across the country calling for the development of a comprehensive strategy to address and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

They will also present politicians from rural and regional electorates with a research report from the Australian Farm Institute warning of threats to the nation’s long-term food security and a potential collapse of parts of the agriculture sector.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/sep/16/nationals-mps-snob-launch-of-farming-groups-climate-change-report>

Nationals MPs snub launch of farming group’s climate change report

Sarah Martin, *Guardian*, 16/09/2019

Nationals MPs have snubbed a farmers’ group launching a major climate change report that warns the Australian agricultural sector faces “significant threats to viability” without a new national climate strategy.

Lucinda Corrigan, the chair of Farmers for Climate Action, said she had wanted Nationals MPs to attend the event, saying she believed cross-party support was needed given the challenge facing producers.

She also said Nationals MPs should consider the concerns within the agricultural sector about climate change separately to the issues affecting the energy sector.

While no Nationals MPs attended the event, the environment minister, Sus-

san Ley, launched the report, saying she believed it was important that conservation and agriculture were “on the same page”.

“I share the view that we face very real challenges from climate change now and in the years ahead,” she said.

“There is no question that our climate is changing, and the science on that is conclusive.”

Richard Heath, the executive director of the Australian Farm Institute, which completed the report, said that Australian agriculture needed a “national cohesive climate change strategy”.

“We need this strategy because Australian agriculture is both partly responsible for and increasingly impacted by the impacts of climate change.”

<https://www.newcastleherald.com.au/story/6388639/strike-out-how-hunter-workers-withdrew-support-for-student-climate-action-strike/>

Claims union pressure left student strikers to raise \$600 for stage

Joanne McCarthy, *Newcastle Herald*, 17/09/2019

Newcastle’s student climate strike has exposed divisions in the union movement after Hunter Workers denied students use of a stage only months after prominently supporting an earlier student climate strike.

Students and volunteers were forced to raise \$600 to hire a replacement stage for this Friday’s event in Civic Park after Hunter Workers – the former Newcastle Trades Hall – declined an interim booking to use a unions-owned mobile stage and vehicle with “Hunter Workers” featured prominently on the side.

The mobile stage was provided free to students for at least one former Newcastle climate strike in 2019.

Hunter Workers did not deny, and declined to respond to questions, about claims it was pressured by coal workers or their unions to refuse support for the climate strike while one of the student demands is to end new coal mines and gas projects.

The student strikers’ demands include a “just transition and job creation” for coal workers.

Shortland MP and former CFMEU organiser Pat Conroy said he supported the student strikers after a meeting several weeks ago, although he did not agree with their demand for no new coal mines or gas projects.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/climate-news/115758188/the-scenario-for-new-zealand-if-temperatures-keep-rising>

The scenario for New Zealand if temperatures keep rising

Harrison Christian, *Stuff*, 18/09/2019

Understanding the full impact of our changing climate three decades from now is one of the obstacles to action. In this news report from the future, Stuff’s Harrison Christian details our predicament, as outlined by volumes of research and expert interviews.

Tent cities overflowing with refugees. Quarantine officers combing the ports for mosquitos. Wildfires burning in the heartland.

New Zealand in 2050 is a country divided, with state resources stretched across many fronts.

Drought in agricultural-producing nations like the US has driven up the price of food. The world is looking to New Zealand to produce wheat and other grain crops.

The country is under intense migration pressure, an issue that has polarised voters and led to the opposition calling for an end to our status as a “life raft nation”.

Mortality rates are rising, as infants and the elderly succumb to the mosquito-borne virus Dengue fever, and antibiotic-resistant outbreaks of salmonella and E. coli.

Climate migrants come mainly from Australia, which is battling drought and mosquito-borne disease; Pacific nations like Kiribati, now half-submerged in rising seas; and Bangladesh, where millions of people have been displaced.

Also vying for climate migrant status in New Zealand are refugees from failed states, and from countries that have descended into resource wars, such as India and Pakistan.

New Zealand is viewed as a lifeline in parts of the world where the direct impacts of climate change have been more acute. The country is relatively safe and stable, and still producing food.

The world’s oceans are in poor condition, after some countries made unilateral decisions to seed them with iron filings.

The geo-engineering projects were aimed at turning the ocean into a carbon sink, in a last-ditch effort to curb warmer temperatures. But they had

the opposite effect, and caused a mass extinction event.

Police say they have zero tolerance for raids on bolthole communities in the South Island, where international billionaires are reportedly stockpiling resources.

The prime minister blamed tensions on a gap between low-income families and a small percentage of “climate profiteers” who run risk management and consultancy firms.

There’s a growing tendency for the nation’s wealthy to live in gated communities with private security, a stark reminder of the class divide.

• *The above account is based on the IPCC’s forecast of a more than 1.5C rise in average world temperatures if net emissions aren’t halved by 2030 and reduced to net zero by 2050.*

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/climate-news/115758711/new-zealand-in-2050-the-scenario-if-emissions-are-curbed>

New Zealand in 2050: The scenario if emissions are curbed

Harrison Christian, Stuff, 19/09/2019

The world managed to reach “net zero” emissions, in turn limiting an increase in global average temperatures to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels.

It was a remarkable achievement that required sweeping changes to diplomacy, social and economic policy and the way people live their daily lives.

The world’s biggest emitters of carbon dioxide – China, the US, India and Russia – had to put aside their differences and work together. They taxed fossil fuels, subsidised renewable energy and helped developing countries access advanced energy technology.

But the picture isn’t all positive. The change of 1.5C has still been disruptive, bringing knock-on effects to New Zealand in the form of migration pressure and disease.

The average Kiwi family has an electric vehicle, eats sustainably grown food and is vaccinated against tropical disease.

New Zealanders in 2050 are accustomed to higher temperatures, and consider a Summer’s day in the high 20s to be mild.

The country now has a low-carbon economy, but the transition was bumpy. Reducing our emissions involved societal upheaval.

State-backed employment packages were needed to help workers move

from oil and gas into other industries. Unemployment remains high, as changes in industry coincide with the rise of automation in the workplace.

Food production has been harder-hit in other countries than in New Zealand, so our exports have increased and we feed more of the world than we did before.

Housing development has stopped in some coastal and low-lying areas because of the risk of coastal flooding and erosion, as councils review their plans and look at alternative sites.

Although temperature rise was limited to 1.5C, sea-levels have risen by 30cm.

An influx of climate change migrants from Australia, Asia, Africa, the Mediterranean and the Pacific has jump-started economic growth. Many new arrivals have agricultural expertise and fled drought in their country of origin.

In a warmer world, New Zealand, with its ability to grow life-sustaining crops, and its isolation from politically unstable nations, is seen as a very good place to be. How we should treat climate migrants – and how many we should accept – is a big policy issue.

• *The above account is based on IPCC projections for a rise in global average temperatures being limited to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels, if net emissions are halved by 2030 and reach “net zero” by 2050.*

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/sep/18/fossil-fuel-invite-only-forum-un-climate-summit>

‘Greenwashing’: fossil fuel execs to hold invite-only forum at UN climate summit

Sandra Laville, Guardian, 18/09/2019

Oil and gas executives are holding an exclusive invitation-only forum with environmentalists and government representatives on the sidelines of the UN climate summit, in what critics have condemned as an attempt to influence negotiations in favour of fossil fuel companies.

Senior executives from leading oil companies including BP, Shell and Chevron will be at the event in New York on 22 September, which they describe as a “closed high-level discussion” with key stakeholders.

Meanwhile, António Guterres, the UN secretary general, will be bringing world leaders, academics, government representatives and environmentalists together for a climate action summit in the city on 23 September. The UN says the summit is an attempt to motivate countries, companies, cities and civil

society to achieve the objectives of the Paris climate agreement.

Taylor Billings, of the global campaign group Corporate Accountability, said the meeting and interaction with the summit were “nothing more than an opportunity for some of the world’s biggest polluters to greenwash”.

Some of the leading NGOs who are meeting the fossil fuel CEOs defended their position. Mark Brownstein, senior vice-president of energy at the Environmental Defense Fund, said: “You make progress by talking to people that you don’t always agree with as well as people that you do agree with.”

FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/>

Activists face harsher penalties

Clare Armstrong, Daily Telegraph, 14/09/2019

Anti-coal activists who target trains, roads, ports or resources-related businesses would face harsher penalties under a Nationals proposal to stop disruptive protests.

The proposed crackdown follows similar laws currently before parliament targeting vegan activists who co-ordinate farm invasions.

The motion, to be put forward by parliamentary party room members at The Nationals’ annual federal council today in Canberra, would also demand the Morrison government outlaw organisations that breach the rules.

Queensland MP George Christensen said, if passed, it could mean anti-coal activists were slapped with major fines or even jail time for interfering with private property.

Christensen said he did not have a problem with activists protesting outside his office, parliament or a public place but they should not be allowed to interfere with lawful businesses on private land.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/dont-pull-gas-trigger-origin-warns/news-story/9da55848053d47ebcbcd835c2414fa3d>

Don’t pull gas trigger, Origin warns

Perry Williams, Aus, 18/09/2019

Power giant Origin Energy has warned the federal government against expanding its gas export trigger over fears the “extreme intervention” may jeopardise lucrative LNG contracts and further diminish Australia’s investment reputation.

Amid government moves to reintroduce its “big-stick” electricity market legislation in parliament this week, Origin criticised a plan to tweak the Australian Domestic Gas Security Mechanism as part of new policies to improve the east coast gas market and called for the mechanism to be culled from 2023.

The controversial reset of the gas industry was negotiated by Centre Alliance Senator Rex Patrick in exchange for supporting the government’s tax cuts. In addition to changes to the gas trigger it includes a long-term proposal to replicate Western Australia’s gas reservation in the eastern states along with pipeline reforms.

The ADGSM can direct Queensland LNG exporters to divert supplies to the local market if a shortfall is forecast for the following year. It has been overseen by Resources Minister Matt Canavan as a response to tight domestic supplies on the east coast but has not yet been triggered since it was introduced in July 2017.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/matthew-canavan-blasts-hypocritical-self-indulgent-activists-holding-back-mining-sector/news-story/aa21e9f757597506aa2a6de4c481a1d>

Matthew Canavan blasts ‘hypocritical, self-indulgent activists’ holding back mining sector

Richard Ferguson, Aus, 17/09/2019

Resources Minister Matthew Canavan has blasted the actions of “hypocritical, self-indulgent activists” holding back the mining sector as he opened Australia’s first coal mine in nearly five years.

The Byerwen mine near Glenden in North Queensland officially opened on Tuesday, months after a federal election dominated by the future of the coal industry in the state.

Senator Canavan, in Mackay, said the coal mine opening was a reminder of the successes of the Australian mining industry, before he launched into a tirade against what he labelled a “perverted” anti-mining protest movement.

“The history of the Australian mining industry is a reminder that dreams still come true. And today’s opening shows that we should still dream about a bigger and brighter future for the Australian mining industry,” he told attendees at the official mine opening.

“Today those dreamers have the modern problem of fighting a bunch of hypocritical, self-indulgent activists who like to enjoy all of the conveniences of modern life powered by our mining



Queensland Greens MP Michael Berkman: “The Queensland Labor Government has introduced legislation giving Police extra powers to “crack down” on peaceful protesters. These laws introduce two new offences, and give police extensive new search powers. These laws are unfounded, unnecessary and dangerously anti-democratic and we should all be deeply concerned about them. This is about politics and vilifying peaceful protesters to capitulate to the Murdoch press, and continue to take the side of their fossil fuel donors time and again.” Photo: Michael Berkman

sector while campaigning against the very industry that makes this happen.

“The modern protest movement has become some kind of perverted take on the medieval purchase of indulgences.”

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/sep/19/queensland-government-unveils-proposed-laws-against-protester-locking-devices>

Queensland government sought mining industry input on laws targeting protesters

Ben Smee, Guardian, 19/09/2019

The Queensland government sought the input of the mining lobby on new laws, introduced into state parliament, designed to stop acts of civil disobedience by protesters using “dangerous attachment devices”.

The controversial legislation introduced on Thursday proposes new pen-

alties for activists who block transport infrastructure or business access and use locking devices to prevent their removal. Police will be given new powers to search people and vehicles suspected of carrying such devices.

The Queensland Greens MP Michael Berkman said he was “barely surprised” the government sought the mining sector’s input.

“It just makes it crystal clear that this legislation is really about protecting Labor’s fossil fuel donors and obscuring their climate hypocrisy,” he said.

The laws outline new fines and potential jail terms for people who use locking devices during protests – up to \$6,500 or two years in prison for people who block transport infrastructure, and \$2,600 and one year in prison for those who block business access.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/energy-giants-warned-by-angus-taylor-on-green-influence/news-story/bac1fc0abf6abb99e3408ed04497c78c>

Energy giants warned by Angus Taylor on 'green' influence

Simon Benson & Richard Ferguson, Aus, 19/09/2019

Energy Minister Angus Taylor has accused business leaders of bowing to political "fringe dwellers" and the anti-coal lobby over the Coalition's proposed "big-stick" market reforms and its push for more baseload power.

The legislation, introduced to the House on Wednesday, is aimed squarely at the three big energy providers in a crackdown on price gouging and uncompetitive behaviour that the government claims will drive down retail prices.

"Increasingly, business leaders are capitulating to shrill cries from political fringe dwellers, like those who want to rapidly shut all coal-fired power stations. Meanwhile, the interests of the quiet Australians are lost in the noise."

At issue is a contentious provision in the legislation that could force divestiture on recidivist energy companies that abuse their market power.

Australian Energy Council chief executive Sarah McNamara said on Wednesday the amendments did not go far enough.

"The bill will not lower the cost of electricity, and this was confirmed by both the Treasury and the ACCC at its Senate committee hearing. It may result in more frequent price changes, leaving consumers confused and frustrated," Ms McNamara said.

"The bill provides the government with unprecedented powers to force a business to sell an asset. This represents a significant shift in Australia's legal framework, with economy-wide implications."

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/sep/19/eric-abetz-compares-the-conversation-nazis-climate-change-denial>

Eric Abetz compares The Conversation to Nazis over stance on climate change denial

AAP/Guardian, 1909/2019

The Liberal senator Eric Abetz has compared *The Conversation* website to Hitler, Stalin and Mao, after it announced a zero-tolerance approach to climate change deniers.

The academic news and analysis website has said it will remove comments and lock accounts that put forward those views, outraging the Tasmanian senator.

"Adolf Hitler, Joseph Stalin and Mao Zedong couldn't have put it better themselves. They'd be so proud," he told parliament.

"To so superciliously and arrogantly deny a voice to an alternative point of view is reminiscent of totalitarian regimes."

The editor of *The Conversation*, Misha Ketchell, said the academic website was committed to presenting peer-reviewed rigorous science no matter what perspectives they represent.

"We are not silencing commenters altogether," Ketchell told *Guardian Australia*. "They have had several years in which they have been able to post those comments on our website."

"They've been doing it for a number of years and because the arguments haven't changed and the evidence hasn't changed we think they've had ample opportunity to have their say."

In a blog post, Ketchell said people peddling pseudoscience were perpetuating ideas that would ultimately destroy the planet.

Abetz, who describes himself as a climate change agnostic, said environmental prophets of doom had been getting it wrong for half a century.

"This ugly, unscientific, totalitarian, arrogant approach taken by *The Conversation* is the exact opposite to the principles of scientific endeavour."

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/sep/14/going-to-the-streets-again-what-you-need-to-know-about-fridays-climate-strike>

Climate strike in Australia

Lisa Cox, Guardian, 19/09/2019

Strikes are planned in 120 countries across the world including almost 100 locations across Australia, from the major centres of Sydney and Melbourne to the small rural town of Wollar in New South Wales. There will be strikes in all capital cities and in regional centres such as Albury, Orange and Bendigo [September 20].

"This massive day of action is going to be fundamental towards advocating for more efficient action on climate change," Evan Meneses, a 17-year-old organiser for the Adelaide strike, said.

He said this was especially the case for Australia "given there is very little concrete evidence to suggest we're achieving what was laid out in the Paris agreement".

"There's something that really connects with people when people as young as eight or 13 are advocating for action on the climate crisis because people that young are not the ones who should be having to [do so]."

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