

# Fossil Fool Bulletin

*Fossil fools in the spotlight this week: A resource for people working towards a sustainable energy future*

Published by Eve Sinton fossil.fool.bulletin@gmail.com

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## Pipeline company slinks out back door as Coonamble community vows fight

**Bizarre events continued at Coonamble last week as pipeline proponent APA pulled out of a community meeting and asked for a police escort out of town.**

As around 400 locals packed into the Coonamble Bowling Club for a meeting originally called by APA, the company's representatives were seen slipping out the back via the kitchen.

Cancelling the meeting, APA said, "It became apparent this week that social media posts promoting organised disruption to these events for the sole purpose of generating media attention would not allow genuine consultation to take place, and could unfairly impact on the normal operations of the meeting venues."

***Vehement opposition to Santos Pilliga project; pipeline will be blocked at any cost***

In response, The Great Artesian Basin Protection Group (GABPG) said it was "dismayed that APA has communicated they will not be attending [the meeting], despite security assurances by GABPG and others".

"As such, the community will be forced to hold the meeting without their presence.

**APA trespass, biosecurity breach**

"Concerned citizens will still have the opportunity hear from the Group's legal counsel and to discuss the APA's trespass and biosecurity breaches over the last few weeks. They will also have the opportunity to share their



*"Peaceful, decent and genuinely concerned" – 400 locals packed the meeting.*

experiences and be better prepared for possible future activities by APA."

Anne Kennedy of GABPG said, "It was APA who called for the Community Consultation meeting, APA advertised in the local papers and media, inviting landholders to come, and APA booked the hall for the meeting.

**"They did a runner"**

"When they saw how many concerned landholders turned up, APA realised they simply couldn't answer the genuine questions and concerns – so they did a runner.

"They don't want to speak to a combined community, they want to pick landholders off, one by one.

"So they pretended they were 'frightened' by the size of the crowd – the most peaceful, decent and very genuinely concerned landholders, farmers and residents.

"But APA didn't want to face them – so they ran away out a back door."

The community continued without APA, and vowed to "vehemently oppose" the Santos Pilliga project, and to block the pipeline "at any cost".

Those present also rejected any further attempts by APA to engage with those affected by its activities only on a 'one-on-one' basis, declaring they would only hold meetings with APA in the presence of the community.

The undertakings were contained in three motions from the floor, put to the meeting by chairman David Chadwick of the GABPG. Each was passed unanimously.

**Determined to protect**

"These motions and their emphatic endorsement by the people from all across the region who attended show just how determined people are to protect the Great Artesian Basin and its water," Mr Chadwick said.

"They also show the APA has completely destroyed what little social capital it may have had, by abusing its rights under its authority to survey and acting so arrogantly, trying to paint themselves as victims when its landholders who have been on the receiving end.

"Their attempts at 'divide and conquer' have completely backfired."

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# Traditional owners reject tribunal's registration of 'sham' agreement

**Pressure from Adani's lawyers has seen the National Native Title Tribunal tick off the company's Indigenous Land Use Agreement with the Wangan and Jagalingou (W&J) people, despite it being the subject of a court challenge next year.**

The agreement is critical for the Carmichael Mine to proceed. Without it, banks would be in breach of international standards if they financed the mine.

Registration of the agreement also opens the way for the Queensland government to permanently extinguish W&J native title rights over 2,750 hectares in the Galilee Basin.

The W&J traditional owners say the agreement is invalid and was obtained by dubious practices, such as paying people to attend meetings organised by the company.

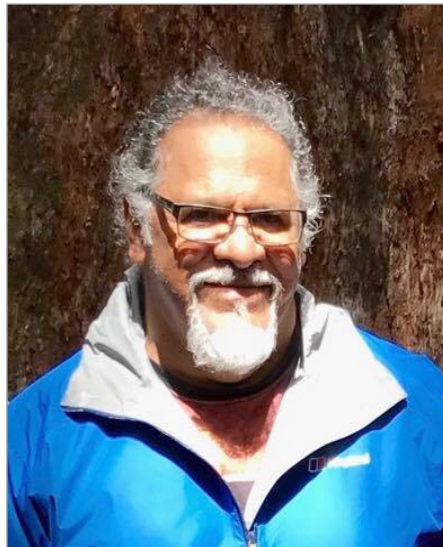
## **Victory amid shock for Adani**

"Adani today welcomed the registration of the Indigenous Land Use Agreement between the Wangan and Jagalingou People, the State of Queensland and Adani by the National Native Title Tribunal", the company said in a statement.

However, Adani's victory came just as it was reportedly in shock over the sudden death of its media spokesman, former Labor staffer Ron Watson, last Friday.

W&J Traditional Owners Family Council said they were troubled by the decision of the to register the Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) for Adani before a legal challenge to the ILUA scheduled for March 2018 is heard in the Federal Court.

W&J representatives say they have



**W&J spokesman Adrian Burragubba.**  
*Below: Scenes from Frontline Action on Coal's rail blockade.*

never given consent or signed the ILUA and are not bound by it. The ILUA was rejected by W&J again at a claim group meeting only days ago.

***"This was not a clean process or an uncontested document"***

Representatives of the native title claim group have filed an application in the Federal Court for an injunction against Adani and the Queensland Government, to restrain them should they attempt to use the registration of the ILUA extinguish their native title under its terms, before their challenge is resolved in the courts.

W&J spokesman Adrian Burragubba said, "We expected the Native Title Tribunal to tick the boxes and register

Adani's sham land use agreement. It is still subject to a legal challenge in March 2018 and we will pursue this and seek to reverse any decisions that are made in the meantime.

## **W&J apply for injunction**

"Our lawyers are immediately writing to the state government and are urgently pursuing an injunction. Our legal team have prepared for the eventuality that the tribunal would place the ILUA on the register.

"The tribunal knew this was not a clean process or an uncontested document, and despite receiving evidence this week that the Claim Group had de-authorized the ILUA, they proceeded to register it. We are looking at our options for judicial review of the Tribunal decision," Mr Burragubba said.

Linda Bobongie, the Coordinator for the W&J Applicant, one of the convenors of the claim group meeting last weekend, and Chairperson of the W&J Traditional Owners Council, said, "It is a matter of justice that W&J's court challenge to this ILUA be heard before the state acts to extinguish our native title for the mine. Our lawyers are seeking a response from the new Queensland Government that they will not act on any provisions of this ILUA document that will harm our rights or lead to the destruction of our country and heritage.

"We are contesting Adani's purported land use agreement in the courts, and the Government would have its thumb on the scales of justice if it moved to support the mine and extinguish our native title before the trial. We have said no. The Government and Adani do not have our consent", Ms Bobongie said.

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# NSW Greens MPs arrested at Adani's rail works



Greens MPs Jeremy Buckingham and Dawn Walker with Stop Adani supporters.

NSW Greens MPs Jeremy Buckingham and Dawn Walker were arrested by Queensland police last Wednesday after taking part in a blockade of the Adani Carmichael coal mine rail construction site. The MPs were arrested at 6:35am along with a dozen other climate activists at Belyando, 270km west of Bowen. They were charged with trespass unlawfully on a place of business.

Greens MP Jeremy Buckingham said: "I'm proud to stand with activists in defence of climate and country, and represent all those people around Australia and internationally who want to stop the Adani coal project," said Greens MP Jeremy Buckingham "Although we are MPs from NSW this is an issue of national and international significance. Adani represents a line in the sand for all those concerned about climate change who do not want to see a new coal precinct opened up in Australia.

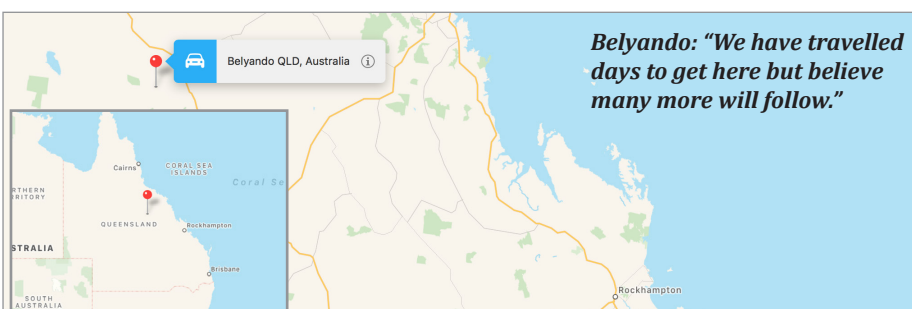
Green MPs have a proud tradition of participating in peaceful, non-violent

direct action and we stand with all those opposed to this crazy coal mine," said Greens MP Jeremy Buckingham Greens MP Dawn Walker said:

"It was a very important day for me, stopping work on the Adani mine and being arrested with climate activists who understand the importance of preventing this destructive project from going ahead," said Greens MP Dawn Walker.

"I was proud to stand with traditional owners who have said 'no means no' to Adani, and made it clear they will not be surrendering their land and water to this coal corporation.

"Although this mine is miles from anywhere, the eyes of all Australia are on it. We have travelled days to get here but believe many more will follow. I'm appalled by the way this project is tearing indigenous communities apart and offering a sub standard agreement to traditional owners for their land, with little economic opportunity. On every level Adani's controversial mine does not stack up."



## News this week

As Chinese banks indicated they won't fund the megamine, **Gautam Adani** made a visit to the **Chinese Embassy**. Their discussions remain undisclosed.

Meanwhile **Downer Group** cancelled a series of Adani jobseeker events, days after they were announced, and declined to answer questions.

A complaint by **Environmental Justice Australia** has been made to the ACCC alleging **false job claims** by Adani.

It was alleged companies are charging hopeful workers for mining job courses, while the work is unlikely to materialise.

As **QGC** turned on the gas at its new Charlie plant near Wandoan, the **gas glut** was predicted to last another 10 years.

A new drilling technology which avoids fracking is being spruiked by **V2H International**. However, it still has problems with gas migration into groundwater and aquifers.

The extraordinary events around **APA's** activities around the Pilliga, made TV news broadcasts. APA cancelled a community meeting in Coonamble and were seen **sneaking out the back door** of the local bowlo, seeking a police escort out of town.

Tony Windor's article in *The Saturday Paper* is recommended reading on the subject.

**Transparency International** called for stricter rules on politicians and government officials moving into corporate lobbying.

The **Turnbull** government backed off some of its proposed restrictions on charities but will clamp down on foreign donations.

**AGL** rebuffed government pressure to keep its ailing and dirty **Liddell** power station running after 2022 and will replace it with a mix of gas, renewables and storage.

Julien Vincent of **Market Forces** wrote in the *Sydney Morning Herald* that most of the Top 50 ASX companies have no plans to curb climate change emissions.

Some companies plan activities to continue as usual even under a devastating 6°C scenario.

# In the news this week:

This week FFB has summarised 31 pages, 17,600 words of news for your convenience.

[Click on the links to view the full, original articles.](#)

## ADANI SAGA

<http://www.news.com.au/finance/business/mining/chinese-banks-rule-out-funding-adanis-carmichael-mine-project/news-story/ed335630a64a81c2518d69db93d9c482>

### Chinese banks rule out funding Adani's Carmichael mine project

*Pat Griffiths, Stuart Layt and Sonia Kohlbacher, News.com.au, 04/12/2017*

Overnight, The Industrial & Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) responded to reports Adani was seeking Chinese financing by distancing itself from the project.

Another of the 'big four' Chinese banks, the China Construction Bank has already ruled out supporting the project.

But despite the setbacks, Adani looks like it will ramp up its efforts.

Immediately following the Queensland election, the company secured the services of heavyweight lobbyists from both side of politics.

<http://www.smh.com.au/world/chinese-money-will-not-fund-dirty-adani-mine-says-embassy-20171205-gzzewy.html>

### Chinese money will not fund 'dirty' Adani mine, says embassy

*Kirsty Needham, Sydney Morning Herald, 05/12/2017*

The controversial Adani coal mine project in Queensland will not be funded by Chinese banks, the Chinese Embassy has confirmed, with former foreign minister Bob Carr and prominent opponent of the mine Geoff Cousins claiming partial credit.

The Adani coal mine has already been rejected by the four major Australian banks, and the Labor Government in Queensland says it will block funding from the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-12-05/no-chinese-bank-will-fund-adani-coal-mine-bob-carr-says/9229500>

### Adani: Chinese bank cash won't fund Carmichael coal mine, Bob Carr says

*Bill Birtles, ABC, 05/12/2017*

Former foreign minister Bob Carr says he has been assured that no Chinese investors will help Adani's controversial Carmichael coal mine in remote central Queensland.



### Adani referred to consumer watchdog over 'misleading' employment claims

A community legal service urges Australia's consumer watchdog to crack down on Adani for misleading vulnerable jobseekers with inflated claims its Queensland mine will create...

ABC.NET.AU

Mr Carr has been lobbying Chinese organisations against the project on behalf of the Australian Conservation Foundation for the past three weeks.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-12-06/adani-jobs-acc-legal-case-chris-mccoomb/9226560>

### Adani: Indian miner referred to consumer watchdog over 'misleading' employment claims

*Josh Robertson, ABC, 06/12/2017*

A community legal service has urged Australia's consumer watchdog to crack down on Adani for "misleading vulnerable jobseekers" with "inflated" claims its Queensland mine will create 10,000 jobs.

Environmental Justice Australia (EJA), acting for Townsville jobseeker Chris McCoomb, has referred the Indian miner to the Australian Consumer and Competition Commission (ACCC) over its jobs spruiking.

Mr McCoomb's 17-page complaint names at least one Queensland mining training outfit that is using Adani's "inflated figures ... to promote sometimes costly training courses and certifications" to cash-strapped jobseekers.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/dec/06/the-stakes-are-high-and-public-opinion-is-clear-we-must-say-no-to-adani>

### The stakes are high and public opinion is clear: we must say no to Adani

*Fiona Stanley, The Guardian, 06/12/2017*

Coal projects like Adani's damage people's health and cause tragic and avoidable deaths. Climate change is already recognised as the world's biggest public health threat, which is why the Lancet medical journal earlier this year condemned Adani's mine as a "public health disaster". Yet, still no independent health assessments of the mine have been conducted.

In India, where Adani's coal would be burnt, air pollution from burning coal kills 115,000 Indians every year – including 10,000 children under the age of five – costing the country \$4.6 billion annually. Globally, seven million people die each year from air pollution, to which coal is a major contributor.



<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/dec/06/adani-coalmine-wont-be-funded-by-chinese-banks-embassy-says>

### Future of Adani coalmine hanging by a thread after Chinese banks back out

Michael Slezak, *The Guardian*, 06/12/2017

Adani's Carmichael coalmine project will not be funded by Chinese banks, the Chinese embassy has said, in a move some see as dooming the project, and potentially Adani's operations in Australia.

Since Saturday, three Chinese banks have ruled out financing the project, and overnight it was revealed the Chinese embassy had confirmed no Chinese bank would do so.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/dec/07/is-this-the-end-of-the-road-for-adanis-australian-megamine>

### Is this the end of the road for Adani's Australian megamine?

Michael Slezak, *The Guardian*, 07/12/2017

Adani's operations in Australia appear to be hanging on by a thread, as activists prove effective at undermining the company's chances of getting the finance it needs.

But according to most commentators, financing from China was the end of the line for the company's operations in Australia.

Tim Buckley, from Ieefa, says the news is a major blow to the Carmichael project, and will mean there is unlikely to be much movement from Adani until after the federal court hears a case brought by representatives of the Wangan and Jagalingou, the traditional owners of the site of the mine.

The two options that might seem possible are loans from banks in India, or financing from other Adani Group companies in India.

Buckley says without financing, coalmining in the Galilee basin is dead.

"That's why the Galilee has not been developed for 50 years. The coal industry has known about it for the last couple of decades," he says. "Nobody has built anything there because it is too remote – the costs are too high."



<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/adani-carmichael-mine-palaszczuk-accused-of-xenophobia-as-funding-options-dry-up/news-story/20e7d6e055cde931c4f6e98690e9e642>

### Adani Carmichael mine: Palaszczuk accused of xenophobia as funding options dry up

John McCarthy, Renee Viellaris, *The Courier Mail*, 07/11/2017

Federal Resources Minister Matt Canavan has been branded "unhinged" after he accused Queensland's Labor government of racism and xenophobia over the Adani coal mine.

Mr Canavan sensationally accused Annastacia Palaszczuk and Federal Labor of "buckling to racism and xenophobia" in pulling their support for the Adani mine, saying they would not have an issue if the proponent was British.

<http://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/downer-removes-information-on-adani-jobs-events-from-website/news-story/cff05ed1715bb8868bfe570720967fd7>

### Downer removes information on Adani jobs events from website

Tony Raggatt, *Townsville Bulletin*, 08/12/2017

Adani jobseeker events at Townsville and Palm Island have been postponed not much more than a week after they were announced.

Contractor Downer has removed information about the events from its website and declined to answer questions.

<https://thewire.in/202861/potential-funding-troubles-mount-adani-meets-chinese-ambassador/>

### As Potential Funding Troubles Mount, Adani Meets Chinese Ambassador

*The Wire*, 07/12/2017

Adani group chairman Gautam Adani on December 6 met with Chinese ambassador to India Luo Zhaohui, days after it was reported that China's two top banks said they had no plans to finance the company's controversial coal mine in Australia.

Although it's unclear what was discussed, the Chinese embassy's website stated that they "exchanged views on strengthening economic and trade cooperation" between both countries.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-12-09/adani-contentious-deal-clears-crucial-hurdle-ahead-of-trial/9243040>

### Adani: Deal with traditional owners clears crucial hurdle despite pending trial

Josh Robertson, *ABC*, 09/12/2017

Adani's contentious mine site access deal with traditional owners has won the green light from native title authorities, months before a federal court ruling on whether the agreement is valid.

The National Native Title Tribunal on Friday registered Adani's Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) with the Wangan and Jagalingou (W&J), which is critical to gaining finance for the huge Carmichael coalmine.

It also paves the way for the state to permanently extinguish native title rights over 2,750 hectares of the W&J's ancestral homelands in the Galilee Basin.

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/opinion/adani-lesson-101-dont-let-politicians-get-in-the-way/news-story/1d8ac62b8df28aecf75d916723d6bbfc>

## Adani lesson 101: Don't let politicians get in the way

John McCarthy, *The Courier-Mail*, 09/12/2017

It shouldn't be surprising that the Adani project has turned into a political omnishambles.

But that's not just the current Government, and it isn't the first time a mega project has had this trouble.

Australian Magnesium was a disaster for the Beattie government...

The coal seam gas projects were also a textbook example of how not to implement a new, highly intrusive industry on regional communities fearing their land and water was going to be stolen from under them.

There's no doubt that QCoal had its own problems, delays and frustrations with the State Government, but while Adani is struggling to get financing and has been fighting for seven years to get the Carmichael project up, QCoal got its final approvals this year, started its construction a few months ago, and predicts first coal next year.

No protester has been near it, and no media outlet has been running any campaign to stop it.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rick-humphries/parties-that-are-meant-to-protect-farmers-are-failing-us-when-it-comes-to-adani\\_a\\_23286056/?utm\\_hp\\_ref=au-homepage](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rick-humphries/parties-that-are-meant-to-protect-farmers-are-failing-us-when-it-comes-to-adani_a_23286056/?utm_hp_ref=au-homepage)

## Parties That Are Meant To Protect Farmers Are Failing Us When It Comes To Adani

Rick Humphries, *Huffington Post*, 24/11/2017

Once mining is completed, Adani plans to leave six huge pit voids and mountains of waste rock that will permanently degrade the landscape. The waste rock dumps would cover a massive 8,300 hectares and contain acid-producing mine waste. Adani is not prepared to give assurances that any of these areas will be able to sustain cattle grazing after mining.

The pit voids would cover an additional 3,300 hectares, including high walls hundreds of metres deep. These huge voids will not be rehabilitated and will remain in perpetuity, permanently draining millions of litres of precious groundwater from surrounding aquifers.

On top of this, the mine would divert 88 km of creeks which will not be reinstated.



## GAS, GAS, GAS

<https://www.chinchillanews.com.au/news/qgc-turns-on-gas-at-charlie/3284048/>

### QGC turns on gas at Charlie

Jessica Schremmer, *Chinchilla News*, 07/12/2017

QGC's latest natural gas plant project has the capacity to supply almost half of Queensland's daily demand.

The Charlie plant, located 20km west of Wandoan, was officially opened last Thursday by Shell QGC vice-president Tony Nunan and Western Downs Mayor Paul McVeigh.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/gas-glut-tipped-to-last-another-10-years/news-story/3e76fed80e712d00d750576cdbc2d007>

### Gas glut tipped to last another 10 years

Matt Chambers, *The Australian*, 06/12/2017

The global LNG glut that Australia's resources boom has helped drive could last another 10 years or longer as more projects come on line and put pressure on contract pricing of the nation's second-biggest export, according to Macquarie analysts.

The report casts doubt on recent statements from the industry and analysts that forecast a supply balance early next decade as Chinese demand increases and small-scale floating regasification terminals drive demand in smaller gas markets.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2017-12-06/fracking-replacement-technology-closer-to-commercialisation/9107720>

### New non-fracking technology close to market but scientists and farmers need more convincing

Babs McHugh, *ABC*, 06/12/2017

A new water-jet drill, developed by a Brisbane-based company, uses a

small amount of water compared to traditional fracking and uses a radial (horizontal) drilling technique in existing holes.

The chair of the Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF) council, Daryl Hoey, said the group would need independent advice before endorsing a drill that uses high-pressure water instead of fracking.

The Brisbane-based company developing the water drill is the Australian arm of V2H International.

CEO Doug Henderson said recent trials in coal-bearing regions of Queensland had reinforced the ability of the water-jet drill to be accurate enough to ensure it was able to drill above or below aquifers with no damage.

He conceded that even if it could, it did not alleviate the concerns of many that gas released by the process could migrate into groundwater and aquifers.

<http://www.theland.com.au/story/5103095/show-down-looms-on-pilliga/?cs=4951>

### Pilliga pipeline project community consultation cancelled

Daniel Pedersen, *The Land*, 06/12/2017

TODAY at 1pm the Great Artesian Basin Protection Group gathered with its lawyers at the Coonamble Bowling Club to discuss alleged trespass and biosecurity breaches by APA, a company contracted to build a gas pipeline across NSW's western slopes.

The gathering came as APA cancelled planned community information sessions slated for Tuesday and Wednesday in the wake of what the company claimed were exhortations from the GABPG to disrupt the meetings. The GABPG on Tuesday night expressed its dismay that APA had chosen not to host the meetings.



[thesaturdaypaper.com.au/opinion/topic/2017/12/09/fighting-the-santos-pipeline/15127380005608](http://thesaturdaypaper.com.au/opinion/topic/2017/12/09/fighting-the-santos-pipeline/15127380005608)

## Fighting the Santos pipeline

Tony Windsor, *The Saturday Paper*, 09/12/2017

Last week I was working with my son Andrew on our farm 25 kilometres north of Coonamble when he received a message that there were trespassers on the neighbouring farm. A digital alert system had been put in place for such an event.

Within minutes, farm vehicles from all the neighbours converged on the scene. Others moved in on the trespassers from the eastern side and in a pincer movement the trespassers became trapped and unable to gain access to their vehicles.

The next day, they were followed on the ground by vehicle and in the air by aircraft and again they invaded private lands without appropriate authority and were hunted off. They returned to Coonamble to complain to police about being harassed, and then they left the district.

It has often been said there will be wars over water. In its own way, the scene I was watching was a skirmish in what has the potential to become a war and rewrite the politics of water, land use and energy in this country. It was also an insight into how threatened the farm community felt and demonstrated how it would be difficult to fight these farmers' guerilla tactics. It was a warning they were serious players.

In the Coonamble case, it will be left to the community. The politicians have deserted them. The world is run by those who turn up and whether it be the Shenhua Watermark mine or the Liverpool Plains and Pilliga gas fields, we are about to witness the people taking charge. Until the appropriate science is objectively done, the message is loud and clear: if you don't know, don't go.

## GOVERNMENT POLICY

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-12-05/lobbyists-need-cooling-off-period-after-leaving-politics/9227184>

### Lobbyists should be subject to 'cooling off' period after leaving politics, report warns

Peter Ryan, *ABC*, 05/12/2017

Former politicians and political advisers who become corporate lobbyists



### Politicians need 'cooling off' period before becoming lobbyists, report warns

Former politicians who become lobbyists should be subject to strict cooling off periods, corruption watchdog Transparency International has warned.

ABC.NET.AU

should be subject to strict "cooling off" periods, corruption watchdog Transparency International has warned.

A report published by the organisation examining corruption risks in the mining sector singles out two former MPs (Martin Ferguson and Ian MacFarlane) who became lobbyists after serving as federal resources ministers.

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/chilling-effect-charities-slam-foreign-donations-ban-20171205-gzyyc0.html>

### 'Chilling effect': Charities slam foreign donations ban

Nicole Hasham, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 05/12/2017

Household-name charities receiving overseas funding would be prevented from advocating for social and environmental causes if their activity is deemed political, under a Turnbull government plan.

The measures include a bill to ban foreign political donations to all political campaigners, including interest and advocacy groups that "spend millions of dollars each year to influence voters".

The government will also seek to introduce a new class known as "political campaigners" into the Electoral Act. Such organisations would be forced to comply with the same disclosure and reporting requirements as a political party.

GetUp! national director Paul Oosting said the government's legislation attacks those who speak out against its policies and "does nothing to address the influence big business has on our politicians".

"The rivers of gold flowing from corporate donors like Adani, Exxon and Chevron stay open and industry bodies like the Minerals Council of Australia can continue to campaign unimpeded," he said.

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/turnbull-government-drops-plans-to-curb-green-groups-but-doubts-remain-20171206-gzss5s.html>

### Turnbull government drops plans to curb green groups but doubts remain

Peter Hannam, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 06/12/2017

Environment groups have welcomed the Turnbull government's retreat from plans to curb environmental advocacy but concerns remain about other proposals to restrict the charity sector.

The push for a required level of environmental work lost traction after BHP indicated it would oppose such curbs.

The Australian Conservation Foundation welcomed the backdown of the government's "anti-democratic proposal" to curb environmental advocacy.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-12-09/liddell-coal-plant-closes/9243180>

### Liddell Power Station: AGL confirms closure of coal plant, replaces it with renewable energy

Paige Cockburn, *ABC*, 09/12/2017

Despite calls from the Prime Minister to keep the coal-powered Liddell Power Station open, AGL has announced it will close the plant and repurpose it with a commitment to clean energy.



### AGL rebuffs Malcolm Turnbull and commits to closing Liddell coal station

Energy giant says it will meet the baseload power shortfall through a new mix of gas and renewables while reducing carbon emissions by 17.6 per cent.

SMH.COM.AU

Investments will be made in gas, renewables and battery storage as part of the NSW Generation Plan, with AGL confirming it will close the Hunter Valley station in 2022 as planned.

AGL said along with the NSW Government, it is also exploring the feasibility of a pumped hydro project in the Hunter region.

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/agl-rebuffs-malcolm-turnbull-and-commits-to-ditching-liddell-power-station-for-gas-wind-and-solar-20171208-h01qn0.html>

### AGL rebuffs Malcolm Turnbull and commits to ditching Liddell power station for gas, wind and solar

Michael Koziol, Sydney Morning Herald, 08/12/2017

The Turnbull government will seek expert advice on AGL's new electricity generation plan after the energy giant rebuffed the government and confirmed it would close its coal-fired Liddell power plant.

Kelly O'Shanassy, chief executive of the Australian Conservation Foundation, said the Turnbull government's

attempt to "strongarm" AGL into keeping Liddell open had failed, and the government should now "drop its obsession with coal".

<http://www.smh.com.au/business/markets/companies-ignore-climate-change-and-we-ve-let-them-get-away-with-it-20171208-p4yxjg.html>

### Australia's top companies ignore climate change, and we let them

Julien Vincent, Sydney Morning Herald, 08/12/2017

Last week, APRA Executive Board member Geoff Summerhayes warned the transition to a low carbon economy is already underway and "institutions that fail to adequately plan for this transition put their own futures in jeopardy, with subsequent consequences for their account holders, members or policyholders."

Market Forces says only seven of the ASX top 50 companies had delivered on the key recommendation to disclose information on how their company performs in a scenario where global warming is held below 2°C.



## Arrow puts farmers, water at risk: LTG

Lock the Gate has serious concerns with the impact of thousands of new coal seam gas wells proposed across productive agricultural lands and waterways of the Surat Basin in QLD.

Arrow's tenements extend from Wandoan in the north, Dalby in the east, to Goondiwindi in the south. A gas supply agreement has now been struck with Shell's gas export terminal for the gas to be brought to market.

"This massive expansion will cover thousands of square kilometres of QLD with coal seam gas wells and gasfield infrastructure," said Naomi Hogan of the Lock the Gate Alliance.

"The dewatering of the coal seams for Arrow's gasfields will lead to over a million tonnes of toxic salts being brought to the surface, with no plan for the waste.

"Scientists looking at this proposal have raised serious concerns that the impacts of groundwater and the risks of well integrity failure have been underestimated by the company.

Arrow's gasfields would intercept some of QLD's best grazing and cropping land.

"This gas deal demonstrates the failure of the QLD Government to stand up and protect strategic cropping land and protect our most productive farming regions.

"It's inappropriate to force gasfields onto hardworking Australian farmers, while Shell vacuums gas offshore.

"Farmers targeted on the Cecil Plains are clear that Arrow does not have a social licence to operate there.

"The gasfield areas are proposed across valuable cropping for cotton and grains, threatening the productivity of this rich agricultural region.

"Australians are concerned about damage to our prime agricultural areas and strategic cropping lands by polluting onshore gasfields.

"There has been and will continue to be a lot of landholder concern around this, you can guarantee it," she said.



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