

# 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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## Fracking Science Compendium dispels claim there is 'no evidence' of harm from CSG, LNG

*The Compendium of Scientific, Medical, and Media Findings Demonstrating Risks and Harms of Fracking (the Compendium) is a fully referenced compilation of the evidence outlining the risks and harms of fracking.*

The Compendium is organized to be accessible to public officials, researchers, journalists, and the public at large.

In addition, the Compendium is complemented by a fully searchable, near-exhaustive citation database of peer-reviewed journal articles pertaining to shale gas and oil extraction, the Repository for Oil and Gas Energy Research, that was developed by PSE Healthy Energy and which is housed on its website.

(<https://www.psehealthyenergy.org/our-work/shale-gas-research-library/>)

### Fifth edition documents harm

For this fifth edition of the Compendium, as prior ones, we collected and compiled findings from three sources: articles from peer-reviewed medical or scientific journals; investigative reports by journalists; and reports from, or commissioned by, government agencies.

Peer-reviewed articles were identified through databases such as PubMed and Web of Science, and from within the PSE Healthy Energy database.

Our entries briefly describe studies that document harm, or risk of harm, associated with fracking and summarize the principal findings.

The studies and investigations referenced in the dated entries catalogued

in Compilation of Studies & Findings are current through December 2017.

In our review of the data, seventeen compelling themes emerged; these serve as the organizational structure of the Compendium.

### Upsurge in reported problems

Readers will notice the ongoing upsurge in reported problems and health impacts, making each section top-heavy with recent data.

The Compendium focuses on topics most closely related to the public health and safety impacts of unconventional gas and oil drilling and fracking.

We also include in this edition a section on risks from fracking infrastructure that focuses on compressor stations, pipelines, silica sand mining operations, natural gas storage facilities, and, for the first time, the manufacture and transportation of liquefied natural gas (LNG).

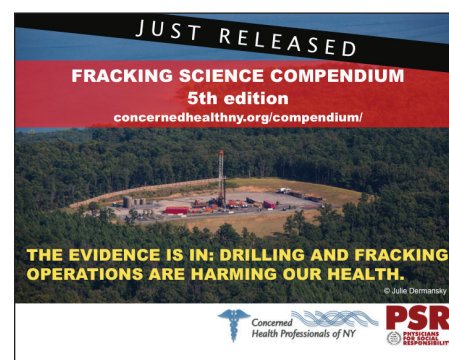
Given the rapidly expanding body of evidence related to the harms and risks of unconventional oil and gas extraction, we plan to continue revising and updating the Compendium approximately every year.

It is a living document, housed on the websites of Concerned Health Professionals of New York and Physicians for Social Responsibility. Read more about the process and scope of our work in the "About this Report" and the "Foreword to the Fifth Edition" sections of the Compendium.

**LNG explodes when spilled into water and, if spilled on the ground, can turn into rapidly expanding, odorless clouds that can flash-freeze human flesh and asphyxiate by displacing oxygen.**

**If ignited at the source, LNG vapors can become flaming "pool fires" that burn hotter than other fuels and cannot be extinguished.**

**LNG fires burn hot enough to cause second-degree burns on exposed skin up to a mile away (1.6km). - p3**



<http://concernedhealthny.org/compendium/>

FFB

• P 3: Fracking infrastructure threats

• P 4: Monash Forum fossils disrupt govt

• P 4: Linc Energy guilty of environmental harm

# Coal co dodges cleanup order Big screen debut for 'Sacrifice Zone'

*Concerned locals and Lock the Gate Alliance have slammed troubled coal mining company Wollongong Coal (WCL) for seeking approval from the Department of Planning to remove a key condition of its mining consent.*

The company has also ignored an order from the Department from more than a year ago to comply with the clean up condition.

Wollongong Coal's "preliminary works approval" for its the Russell Vale mine was approved in 2011. The approval requires the company to fix existing poor engineering in Bellambi Creek to stop overflow of stormwater sending coal fines and other mine pollution into the creek. This work has not been done.

The Department of Planning issued the company with a compliance order to adhere to the condition in October 2016, but Wollongong Coal is applying to modify the consent conditions so the work does not have to be done.

In a submission opposing Wollongong Coal's request, the NSW EPA has criticised the company for poor environmental compliance and highlighted thirteen compliance actions taken against it in the last six years.

The EPA's submission says, "in recent years WCL has demonstrated they cannot consistently manage and maintain pollution control equipment and plant on site" and that the proposed modification "presents an elevated risk to the downstream community and environment" compared to the existing commitment.



*A crowd (above) filled Lismore City Hall for the big screen debut of Cloudcatcher Media's Sacrifice Zone last Saturday.*

*The feature-length film gives a voice to people who want to stop Santos drilling for CSG around the Pilliga Forest.*

*Lessons are drawn from the industry's devastatingly rapid expansion in Queensland, and the experience of the Darling Downs community is seen.*

*A car-load of people travelled from the Darling Downs to see the film.*

*Cloudcatcher Media comprises the Northern Rivers duo David Lowe and Eve Jeffery (left) who spoke before the screening.*

*Photos: Gwilym Summers*



**FFB**

SACRIFICE ZONE

Cloudcatcher Media's feature-length film: battle to save the Pilliga



https://vimeo.com/257444267

**GASFIELD FREE  
NSW NORTHERN RIVERS  
E-BOOK BY RICHARD DEEM**

Over 280 pages explaining the community's struggle against the imposition by force of a coal seam gas industry in the NSW Northern Rivers region.


Over 112 photos, maps, diagrams and Internet links to video clips, interviews and songs.

**\$3.99 from:**

- [https://play.google.com/store/books/details/Richard\\_Deem\\_Gasfield\\_Free\\_NSW\\_Northern\\_Rivers?id=wjsdDQAQBAI](https://play.google.com/store/books/details/Richard_Deem_Gasfield_Free_NSW_Northern_Rivers?id=wjsdDQAQBAI)
- <https://www.amazon.com.au/dp/B01H4WU0L0>
- <https://store.kobohooks.com/en-us/ebook/gasfield-free-nsw-northern-rivers>
- <https://itunes.apple.com/au/book/gasfield-free-nsw-northern/id1157237411?mt=11&ign-mpt=uo%3D4>

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

# Threats from fracking infrastructure spelled out

*The infrastructure for drilling and fracking operations is complex, wide-spread, and poses its own risks to public health and the climate.*

Beginning where silica sand is mined and processed and ending where gas is burned or liquefied for export, infrastructure includes pipelines, compressor stations, dehydrators, processing plants, rail tankers, flare stacks, and storage depots through which oil or gas is moved, filtered, pressurized, warehoused, refined, and vented. It also includes injection wells and recycling facilities that dispose and treat the prodigious amounts of liquid waste that fracking generates. Air pollution is produced at every stage of the process.

In the Upper Midwest, the boom in silica sand mining threatens both air and water quality. It has transformed rural areas into industrialized zones and introduced complex public health risks that are not well understood. Wisconsin alone provides more than half the sand used in fracking operations in the United States. Silica dust is a well-known cause of both lung cancer and silicosis. Precise exposures to downwind communities are unknown at this writing.

## Compressor stations, pipelines pollute

Compressor stations and pipelines are major sources of air pollutants, including benzene and formaldehyde, constituting potential health risks to those living nearby while offering no offsetting economic benefits. Instead, they are associated with loss of tax revenue and economic development for the communities where they are sited and traverse.

The Medical Society of the State of New York and the American Medical Association have each called for comprehensive health impact assessments regarding the health and safety risks associated with natural gas pipelines, which include fires, explosions, and leaks.

Gas storage facilities include not only manmade holding tanks but also geological formations, most notably, abandoned salt caverns and depleted oil fields left over from mining and drilling operations. These unlined cavities were not created with the intent to store pressurized hydrocarbon gases, nor are they engineered for this purpose.

The 3,600-acre Aliso Canyon gas storage facility, located in a depleted oil field in southern California, released more than 100,000 metric tons of methane into the air of the San Fernando Valley over a four-month period beginning in October 2015 before it was finally contained in February 2016. This massive methane leak—the largest in U.S. history—is the greenhouse gas equivalent of a half million cars driving for a year. The plume itself was visible from space.

More than 8,000 families in the nearby community of Porter Ranch were evacuated and relocated, thousands were sickened, and two public schools closed.

The immediate cause of the Aliso Canyon blowout was a cracked well casing and lack of a shut-off valve. Federal standards to regulate underground gas storage were drafted in response to the Aliso Canyon leak. However, the current administration has delayed their implementation.

## Capital and energy intensive

Liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities consist of liquefaction plants, import/export terminals, tanker ships, regasification terminals, and inland storage equipment.

All together, this capital-intensive equipment transforms methane vapor into liquid form through a cryogenic process that lowers the temperature of the gas to its condensation point – 259°F (162°C) and then transports it to distant locations not serviced by pipelines. Chilling natural gas to its liquid state shrinks its volume by a factor of 600, allowing LNG to be exported overseas on massive tanker ships.

LNG is sometimes used as vehicle fuel in, for example, long-haul trucks. LNG facilities encourage fracking by creating storage for the glut of gas that fracking has created, by enabling its export, and by driving up prices and profit margins.

LNG liquefaction requires immense energy in order to achieve the ultra-low temperatures required for condensation. An LNG facility typically requires its own power plant.

## Leaks by design

Because they rely on evaporative cooling to maintain the liquid at su-



*This extract from the new Fracking Science Compendium refers to America. The same infrastructure technology is used in Australia.*

per-chilled temperatures and prevent explosions, LNG tanks are leaky by design: vaporized gas is vented from storage tanks directly into the atmosphere. Larger tanks are engineered to capture boiled-off gas, but this process is not leak-proof. Before it is used or sent down a pipeline, LNG must be regasified via an energy-intensive process that requires massive infrastructure of its own, including periodic flaring to control pressure. Refrigeration, venting, leaks, flaring, and shipping make LNG more energy intensive than conventional natural gas.

A new analysis shows that exporting large quantities of LNG from the United States will likely cause global greenhouse gas emissions to rise not only because of its energy penalty but also because LNG exports add more fossil fuels to the global market and extend the lifespan of U.S. coal-fired plants.

## LNG: acute public safety risk

LNG creates acute public safety risks.

LNG explodes when spilled into water and, if spilled on the ground, can turn into rapidly expanding, odorless clouds that can flash-freeze human flesh and asphyxiate by displacing oxygen.

If ignited at the source, LNG vapors can become flaming “pool fires” that burn hotter than other fuels and cannot be extinguished.

LNG fires burn hot enough to cause second-degree burns on exposed skin up to a mile away (1.6km).

LNG facilities pose significant risks to nearby population centers, and have been identified as potential terrorist targets.

# Monash Forum fossils disrupt govt

*If ever confirmation was needed that elements of the Coalition government are forever fossil fools, it was provided last week by the launch of the Monash Forum.*

Dominated by fossils – former prime minister Tony Abbott, Liberal MP Craig Kelly, Nationals MPs George Christensen and Barnaby Joyce – the forum is named after World War I military commander Sir John Monash. Monash was a key figure in opening Victoria's Latrobe Valley up to coal production.

The forum's dim powers of thought and foresight blew back at them during the week, as seven descendants of Sir John signed a letter demanding they stop using his name.

The forum's key demand is a government-funded coal-fired power station, preferably at the Hazelwood site in the Latrobe Valley.

The valley's poor quality and very dirty brown coal wasn't seen as an impediment by the group, nor the \$3-4 billion price tag and up to eight-year construction period.

The Monash Forum seeks, as much as anything else, to destabilise the Turnbull government's National Energy Guarantee (NEG) discussions with the states.

They certainly dominated the headlines, and Abbott is on his Pollie Pedal bike, headed for Hazelwood.

# Linc Energy guilty of serious environmental harm

**The ABC reports, on 09/04/2018:**

Gas company Linc Energy has been found guilty of causing serious environmental harm at its underground coal gasification (UCG) plant on Queensland's western Darling Downs.

Linc Energy was charged with five counts of wilfully and unlawfully causing environmental harm between 2007 and 2013 at Chinchilla.

The corporation pleaded not guilty to the offences at the beginning of the 10-week trial in the District Court in Brisbane.

Linc Energy did not defend itself in court because it is in liquidation, so no-one was in the dock or at the table representing the defence.

During the trial, the prosecution said Linc Energy was aware it was causing serious damage but allowed operations to continue because it was putting commercial interests above environmental obligations.

The company mismanaged the underground burning of coal seams at the plant, causing the release of contaminants into the soil, air and water.

Linc injected air into underground combustion chambers at pressures that were too high, causing the rock surrounding the coal seam to fracture and allowing the escape of toxic gases.

Former employees gave evidence about how they witnessed bubbling around the gasifier during heavy rain.

A witness statement by former gas

operator Timothy Ford, which he prepared in 2015 before his death, was tendered as evidence.

He said the gas burnt his eyes and nose and he would need to leave the plant after work to get fresh air because it made him feel sick.

In 2015, the Queensland Government imposed an "excavation exclusion zone" on more than 300 square kilometres around the Linc facility where landholders were banned from digging any hole deeper than 2 metres.

The zone was lifted at the beginning of this year.

Linc Energy will be sentenced on May 22. The company is facing maximum penalties of up to \$9 million in fines.

## News this week

**Adani** was pushed off the news pages when a group of fossil fools launched the **Monash Forum**.

The Adani Saga barely fills a column in this week's FFB news summary. Hopefully this is also a sign that the Indian billionaire is no **longer being taken seriously** after all his missed deadlines.

The government's attempts to bully **AGL** into keeping the rusty **Liddell** coal-fired power station going for a few more years got a lot of attention. If AGL won't play ball, the Turnbull government wants the power station sold to someone who will. CEO **Andy Vesey** says Liddell is not for sale, and will be replaced by **renewables and gas**.

New air pollution figures show the **Latrobe Valley** is one of the nation's pollution hot-spots, due to its coal-fired power stations. Air-borne **mercury** in the valley has gone up by 37% in just 12 months.

**Newcastle** and **Gladstone** are also high on the pollution index. The three new LNG plants on **Curtis Island** are Gladstone's biggest new polluters, belching out 6.1 million kilograms of **oxides of nitrogen**.

Incredibly, Gladstone Industry Group chief Patrick Hastings told the local rag, "**Gladstone does not have an air pollution problem**".

The Nationals' **John Barilaro** was billed at a recent US conference as one of the **biggest names in nuclear**.

Barilaro has spruiked **nuclear power** in Australia, but the NSW Nationals deny they want a nuclear plant on the **north coast**.

An organisation called Nuclear for Climate Australia has plans for over **40 nuclear power stations** nation-wide, with up to 18 in NSW.

The devastating social and economic effect of the **CSG industry** are well documented in **Helen Bender's** story published by Michaelwest.com. She compares the thriving regional city of Goondiwindi with its depressed northern neighbours Miles and Chinchilla.

If all the news seems depressing, **Giles Parkinson's** article about the rush to rooftop solar in Australia hits a positive note.

## Recommended reading

<https://www.michaelwest.com.au/helen-bender-and-csg-a-tale-of-two-queensland-towns-goondiwindi-and-miles/>

**Helen Bender and CSG: a tale of two Queensland towns – Goondiwindi and Miles**

*Helen Bender, Michaelwest.com, 02/04/2018*

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/consumers-are-sick-of-coal-fantasy-they-are-going-solar-29278/>

**Consumers are sick of Coalition's coal fantasy: They are going solar**

*Giles Parkinson, Renew Economy, 6/04/2018*

# In the news this week:

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 37,500 words of news for your convenience. Click on the [links](#) to view original articles. (\$) = subscription may be required

## THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/how-anti-adani-groups-are-taking-the-fight-to-mini/3379772/>

### How anti-Adani groups are taking the fight to mining towns

Geoff Egan, Gladstone Observer, 06/04/2018

Anti-mining activists are trying to convince central and north Queenslanders that Adani's Carmichael coalmine is a bad idea.

Lock the Gate will be hosting community meetings in Mackay, Rockhampton and Townsville later this month featuring water experts and farmers who claim the proposed mine will irreparably damage groundwater sources.

Although the campaign to oppose Adani's megamine has been wildly successful in capital cities, the Stop Adani movement has not had been able to make the same inroads in mining towns calling out for work.

Lock the Gate will roll out central Queensland grazier Angus Emmott and former Queensland government Water Planning and Allocation general manager Tom Crothers in the three cities to try and change that.

<https://tonedeaf.com.au/adani-protest-bluesfest/>

### Here's what you need to know about the Adani protest at Bluesfest

Tyler Jenke, Tonedearf, 05/04/2018

[As The Music reported](#) on Tuesday, during the John Butler Trio's Sunday night performance at Bluesfest, an on-stage protest was held which criticised the proposed Carmichael coal mine by the Adani Group in Queensland.

A number of local and international musicians, including Tash Sultana, Mia Dyson, Michael Franti, William Crighton, Promise Of The Real, and Ziggy Alberts all joined in the displaying of a large banner onstage which boldly pleaded for "Coral not coal."

Adrian Burragubba, musician and traditional owner of the proposed site, also took to the stage to make an impassioned plea for Australians to stand up for the environment.



Byron Bay's Bluesfest at Easter weekend was the scene of an on-stage anti-Adani protest from the John Butler Trio and other artists, including W&J traditional owner Adrian Burragubba. Photo: David Lowe

## COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/sustainability/surrounded-by-secrecy-government-undecided-on-shenhua-coal-mine-20180324-p4z63g.html>

### 'Surrounded by secrecy': Government undecided on Shenhua coal mine

Peter Hannam, SMH, 01/04/2018

Calls for greater openness over a \$1.2 billion coal mine proposed for the Liverpool Plains are mounting after the Berejiklian government admitted it had taken more than two years to make a key decision on the project.

China-owned Shenhua applied in January 2016 to have suspended a condition in its exploration licence that required it to make "substantial" progress of the Watermark mine within eight years, according to a document obtained under freedom of information laws by Lock the Gate.

That eight-year period expired the following month.

<https://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/News/road-map-coal-renewables>

### The road from coal power to renewables

Institution of Engineers Australia

Australia could meet its 2030 carbon emissions target by replacing coal-fired power stations with renewables at zero net cost, according to a new study by ANU.

Professor Andrew Blakers from the [ANU](#) Research School of Engineering said Australia had pledged to reduce emissions by 26-28 per cent on 2005 levels by 2030 and the net cost to meet this target with renewables was zero because the cost of electric-

ity from new-build wind and solar power generators was below the cost of electricity from new-build fossil fuel generators.

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/government-pressuring-agl-to-sell-liddell-to-rival-alinta-energy-20180403-p4z7mk.html>

### Government pressuring AGL to sell Liddell to rival Alinta Energy

Latika Bourke, SMH, 04/04/2018

The Turnbull government is pressuring AGL to accept an offer from rival Alinta Energy to buy the ageing Liddell coal-fired power station which its owners have said is in such a state of disrepair, it is "on the sliding scale to oblivion".

AGL has already ruled out a possible sale of the Hunter Valley coal-fired power station despite government pressure. However, Energy Minister Josh Frydenberg told Fairfax Media the government "hoped AGL and Alinta can constructively engage" to ensure Australians have enough electricity.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/apr/03/coal-fired-power-stations-caused-surge-in-airborne-mercury-pollution-study-finds>

### Coal-fired power stations caused surge in airborne mercury pollution, study finds

Calla Wahlquist, The Guardian, 04/04/2018

Airborne mercury pollution from coal-fired power stations in Victoria's Latrobe valley increased 37% in just 12 months, according to an annual national survey of toxic emissions.

The mercury output from Loy Yang B power station alone more than

doubled to 831kg in 2016-2017, an increase of 123% over five years.

The pollution ... is an example of the failure of state-based regulators to properly and consistently control air pollution, Environmental Justice Australia researcher Dr James Whelan said. ...

Whelan said power stations in Australia should be updated with emission control technology, which could reduce the release of toxins by up to 90%. A [report by EJA last August](#) found that the pollution levels of Australian coal-fired power stations would be illegal in the US, Europe and China. ...

Latrobe valley's four coal-fired power stations produced more than 2,000kg of airborne mercury pollution in 2016-17, more than the power stations of any other state or territory.

<http://www.queenslandcountrylife.com.au/story/5323648/81-year-old-grower-fights-for-fertile-land/>

### Kingaroy grower John Larsen set for bumper crop as coal mine threatens fertile land

*Lucy Kinbacher, Qld Country Life, 4/04/2018*

Kingaroy grower John Larsen is set to pull off another bumper crop of soy beans, peanuts and popcorn this year but the fertile land he has worked on all of his 81 years could be under threat.

Mr Larsen is one of a number of local producers who are nervously awaiting the release of an Environmental Impact Statement expected this month into Moreton Resources' proposed coal mine. ...

If it was given the green light, the majority of Mr Larsen's 245 hectare dryland property would be sacrificed.

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/companies/not-for-sale-agl-s-andy-vesey-defies-malcolm-turnbull-20180405-p4z80k.html>

### Not for sale: AGL's Andy Vesey defies Malcolm Turnbull

*Peter Hannam, SMH, 05/04/2018*

AGL will defy pressure by the Turnbull government to sell its ageing Liddell power plant, warning that interference in the market would raise issues of "sovereign risk" that could deter investment in new energy assets.

In a rare interview, chief executive Andy Vesey told Fairfax Media the much-publicised interest in AGL's Hunter Valley coal-fired power station from smaller rival Alinta had been limited to a phone call on Tuesday eve-



*Liddell Power Station shares cooling towers with neighbouring Bayswater, making it difficult to separate the generator and sell it. Photo: AGL Macquarie*

ning from Alinta chief Jeff Dimery and a follow-up email on Wednesday. ...

Mr Vesey said he had replied "we are not in the process of selling so there is no process". ...

Mr Vesey conceded AGL's shift away from fossil fuels had drawn political fire but argued the strategy was the right thing to do for shareholders and for environmental reasons.

"Somebody has to be on the bleeding edge," he said. "We [AGL] are going to be the biggest emitter of [carbon dioxide in Australia] – that means we are going to need to be responsible, and take action." ...

AGL's plans to replace Liddell's capacity itself would firm up over time because it made sense to shareholders and customers to avoid locking in too early technology that is developing fast.

"There's a fundamental axiom in business: you make the decision at the last possible moment," Mr Vesey said. "Why? You get smarter every day."

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/business/bengal-coal-granted-lease-for-a-new-coal-mine-in-the-bowen-basin/news-story/0276f8ccabd5ed2650a7e3f612c5687f>

### Bengal Coal granted lease for a new coal mine in the Bowen Basin

*John McCarthy, Courier-Mail, 05/04/2018*

Bengal Coal has been granted a mining lease for a new coal mine in the Bowen Basin.

A relatively small mine, Dysart East is expected to produce about 1.9 million tonnes a year of prime hard coking coal used for production of steel.

Queensland Resources Council chief executive Ian Macfarlane said it was good news for the coal industry. \$

<https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/massive-interest-and-investments-in-cq-coking-coal/3379840/>

### Massive interest and investments in CQ coking coal projects

*Leighton Smith, Gladstone Observer, 06/04/2018*

Despite struggles faced by Adani's Carmichael thermal coal mine project, the metallurgical (coking) coal industry in the Bowen Basin is powering on. ...

Last month, there were two significant financial outlays in the Bowen Basin regarding metallurgical coal - a partnership was formed to develop the Karin Basin and an the Kestral coal mine was purchased from BHP.

<https://www.singletonargus.com.au/story/5313650/community-set-to-celebrate/>

### Advertising feature: Hunter Coal Festival Community

*Singleton Argus, 04/04/2018*

Celebrating the co-existence between community and mining from April 6-15, includes ...

Mining Leaders Lunch, April 6 – Federal Resources Minister Senator Matt Canavan and Head of Glencore's Global Coal Assets Peter Freyberg. Singleton Community Day and Parade, April 7; Touch Footy Competition, Saturday, April 7; Kurri Coalface Pedal, April 8; Singleton Chamber Lunch, April 9 – NSW Minerals Council CEO Stephen Galilee at Singleton Diggers. Muswellbrook Chamber Breakfast, April 10 NSW – Minerals Council Stephen Galilee at Muswellbrook Race Club. Stem Tours, April 11; Rehabilitation Conference, April 12; Community Updates, April 13; Singleton Firelight Festival, April 14; Charity Golf Day, April 15.

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/mining-firm-in-talks-with-government-over-clean-energy-finance-corporation-oil-field-funding-proposal-20180327-p4z6hd.html>

## Mining firm in talks with government over Clean Energy Finance Corporation oil field funding proposal

Nicole Hasham, SMH, 30/03/2018

The company behind an Australian-first plan to use pollution from power stations to extract oil says taxpayers should help fund the project, despite criticism that it uses an unproven and expensive technology.

A Senate inquiry is considering whether Australia's \$10 billion green bank, the Clean Energy Finance Corporation, should lend money to projects using the technology, known as carbon capture and storage.

The technology involves capturing carbon dioxide at the point of emission which is then stored, often underground in geological formations. Theoretically, this prevents the gas being released into the atmosphere and helps tackle global warming.

[Bridgeport Energy] has proposed such a project at Queensland's Moonie oil field, 170 kilometres west of Toowoomba. It would source up to one million tonnes of carbon dioxide a year from two nearby coal-fired power stations.

Liquid carbon dioxide would be injected into an oil reservoir, forcing out remaining oil and water. The carbon dioxide would remain in the depleted reservoir.

The process is known as enhanced oil recovery, and is used once other extraction methods have been exhausted.

Bridgeport estimates that the process could increase annual oil production from the current 43,200 barrels up to about 750,000 barrels.

The company discussed the project with Resources Minister Matt Canavan and department officials at meetings over two days last month. The talks included the potential for similar projects in Queensland's Surat and Cooper Basins. ...

Bridgeport chief executive Chris Way said enhanced oil recovery was common practice in Canada, the US and elsewhere, and "has consistently delivered improved emission levels without negative impacts to environment or human health".

## GAS, GAS, GAS

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/real-estate/selling/real-estate-in-gladstone-qld-more-than-80-per-cent-of-homes-selling-at-a-loss/news-story/eab6e4416856248469d5f8455e7c0954>

## Real estate in Gladstone, QLD: More than 80 per cent of homes selling at a loss

Natalie Wolfe, Courier-Mail, 02/04/2018

Sitting at the southern tip of the Great Barrier Reef, and famed for being one of the nation's industrial powerhouses, is the central Queensland city of Gladstone. ...

By the 21st century, the decision to build a liquefied natural gas plant was made — encouraging thousands of construction workers to fly into the already prosperous town in an attempt to score a piece of the plant pie.

It landed Gladstone on every property investor's wishlist and young families saw the booming town as an opportunity to finally buy a piece of affordable real estate they could profit from.

But by 2012, the LNG plant was built, the construction workers were getting laid off and the city started to experience a severe downturn.

Six years later and things are no better.

In the last December quarter, more than 80 per cent of Gladstone homes sold at a loss, according to new data released by CoreLogic. That rate is the highest in Queensland and second highest in Australia, based on the average home price more than halving in the past five years. ...

Most of Gladstone real estate's sales are repossessed homes — most of which were bought by investors in the 2011-2012 boom. \$

<https://www.michaelwest.com.au/helen-bender-and-csg-a-tale-of-two-queensland-towns-goondiwindi-and-miles/>

## Helen Bender and CSG: a tale of two Queensland towns – Goondiwindi and Miles

Helen Bender, Michaelwest.com, 02/04/2018

This is a tale of two Queensland country towns and how one town has continued to prosper, while the other was blindsided by fabricated lies and broken promises ... will your community be next?

The towns of Goondiwindi and Miles featured in separate news articles on the same weekend, while one town's path took a blinding turn to crash and burn led by the Queensland government and the CSG companies at the wheel, the other town retained all their own natural fibers that holds their golden fabric together so well. ...

You could only assume that Trent Dalton had no idea that [his feel-good story](#) about Goondiwindi was going to be published on the same weekend as Gemma Clarke's [tragic story](#) of the rural township of Miles. What an unfortunate inconvenience for Dalton, though what an opportunity for others such as myself.

Considering the two towns are 226km

**Goondiwindi's Victoria Hotel: the regional city has been spared the CSG boom and bust that has devastated Miles and Chinchilla. Photo: Queensland.com**



apart from each other on the Leichhardt Highway, how can there be such polarizing differences in these articles? Their differences are of one town being located in the now known region of the Surat Basin (not the Darling Downs), an energy hub where FIFO, man-camps, toxic gas wells, noisy gas infrastructure, nights sky turned to an eerie dangerous glow from the gas cleaning process called flaring. The other town is a humble farming community where residents respect and care for each other and more importantly, is a resource industry free community!

<https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/pollutant-data-shows-gladstone-particle-levels-rem/3378191/>

### **New data: Gladstone remains a 'hotspot' for air pollution**

*Andrew Thorpe, Gladstone Observer, 04/04/2018*

Sulfur dioxide emissions from Gladstone Power Station increased by 7 per cent from 2015-16 to 2016-17, totalling 24.4 million kg, though the station's PM2.5 fine particle (coal dust) emissions fell by two per cent to just under 50,000kg.

The city's largest contributor by far of PM2.5 particles remained Boyne Smelters Limited at 360,000kg, though this was a nine per cent drop on the previous year.

Fine particle emissions from the Calclide A and B power stations in Biloela increased by 7 per cent to 323,000kg.

The biggest new sources of air pollution in Gladstone were the three LNG plants on Curtis Island, which contributed 6.1 million kg of oxides of nitrogen to the atmosphere - 13 per cent of the city's total emissions according to analysis by Environmental Justice Australia researcher Dr James Whelan.

Dr Whelan said Gladstone remained a "hotspot" for air pollution, along with Newcastle and the Latrobe Valley, and the figures strengthened his group's calls for the Federal Government to be given the authority to strictly enforce air quality standards like the EPA has in the United States. ...

Gladstone Industry Leadership Group chief executive Patrick Hastings said Gladstone's major industrial companies were focused on working with the community through [live data monitoring of air quality](#) and open dialogue about their operations.

"Gladstone does not have an air pollution problem," he said.

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/companies/g8-education-s-former-chairwoman-faces-25-years-in-jail-20180403-p4z7i9.html>

### **Bond's foothold in Aussie fading**

*Colin Kruger, SMH, 03/04/2018*

The Australian footprint of former Linc Energy founder, Peter Bond, is shrinking by the day.

The Singapore-based Bond recently sold his trophy home in Brisbane to Clive Palmer for a \$2 million loss, and now his family's lease of the publicly-owned Dunk Island Spit has slipped from his grip.

Adventure tourism company Experience Co – formerly known as Skydive the Beach – announced to the ASX on Tuesday that it was negotiating a 20 to 30-year lease over the Spit after its tender was accepted by the Cassowary Coast Regional Council.

Bond still has the privately-owned Dunk Island Resort which has languished for seven years after being hit by Cyclone Yasi in March 2011.

While local Queenslanders lament the state of the dilapidated resort, Bond was still insisting that Dunk Island would be ready to open anyday now. ...

Pretty soon, the only mark Bond will have left in Australia is the contaminated soil from Linc's coal gasification operations in Chinchilla.

<https://www.chinchillanews.com.au/news/linc-pollution-mega-trial-finally-wrapping-up/3380748/>

### **Linc pollution mega-trial finally wrapping up**

*John Weekes, NewsRegional, 06/04/2018*

A pollution trial years in the making is finally wrapping up.

Who knew what and when at controversial company Linc Energy is now for jurors to decide.

Linc, in liquidation, faces five counts of wilfully and unlawfully causing serious environmental damage at Chinchilla.

The company was accused of causing damage at its underground coal gasification, or UCG sites.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-02/fishermen-fear-seismic-testing-newcastle/9592788>

### **Fishermen fear seismic testing for gas will damage famed fishing ground off Newcastle**

*Ben Millington, ABC, 02/04/2018*

Now gas exploration company Asset Energy is planning another round of seismic surveys 30 kilometres offshore

from Newcastle, starting on April 9.

A ship towing a single acoustic air gun will set off hundreds of sonic blasts to measure the geology of the seabed in the hope of finding a large gas deposit.

While seismic testing can often go for months, Asset Energy said its "very small" 2D seismic survey will last no more than four days, and only cover a small targeted area of 12 square kilometres. ...

But the company has confirmed the survey will partially overlap with a famed fishing ground known by fishermen as The Farm.

Most research on the environmental impact of seismic testing has focused on cetaceans, such as whales and dolphins, and suggests the sonic blasts can cause stress to the mammals and sever communication channels. ...

But the impact on invertebrates, such as tiny shrimp-like plankton, is a [new area of research for Australian scientists at the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies in Tasmania](#), who recently found a single sonic blast had a devastating impact.

"About two-thirds of the plankton were killed and right up to 1,200 metres, that was the real surprise," Associate Professor Jayson Semmens said. ...

In separate studies, the researchers also found seismic surveys have a detrimental impact on scallops and developing lobster larvae.

<http://www.theherald.com.au/story/5324250/tropical-cyclone-iris-delays-seismic-testing-off-newcastle-coast/?cs=305>

### **Cyclone Iris delays movement of vessel to conduct seismic testing off Newcastle**

*Lisa Allan, Newcastle Herald, 04/04/2018*

News seismic testing off the coast of Newcastle will be delayed has prompted calls for the "risky" survey to be cancelled completely.

"The vessel contracted to undertake the survey is currently located in an area that has been impacted by tropical cyclone Iris and this has delayed the planned survey commencement date of April 9," Goh Hock, chairman of Asset Energy's parent company MEC Resources, said.

"The new commencement date will be advised in the coming days as the effects of the cyclone diminish."

Greens MLC Justin Field said the delay provided the federal government with an opportunity to quash the testing completely.



<http://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2018-04-07/fossil-fuel-geoscientist-joins-climate-change-fight/9494426>

## How a fossil fuel geoscientist joined the fight against climate change

ABC Science, 07/04/2018

[Shell geoscientist] Dimitri Lafleur found himself at a briefing on climate change science, and things would never be the same. ...

Dimitri started agitating for the company to shift more of its core business towards renewables. But change wasn't going to happen fast enough for him. ...

So, after years of geophysics and geology study, including a master's degree in earth sciences, and 11 years in the oil and gas industry, Dimitri took the plunge and resigned.

Dimitri soon enrolled in a PhD at the [University of Melbourne's Climate and Energy College](#), which cultivates interdisciplinary work by experts in energy and climate to find solutions to climate change.

He ... decided to study the environmental impacts of "unconventional gas". ...

Dimitri argues ... that there is a lack of data and CSG mining could have a bigger contribution to methane emissions than many think. ...

But Dimitri's PhD research found that published scientific measurements of these stray methane emissions was relatively scarce — given the extent of CSG development in Australia.

## NUKE MADNESS

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/apr/03/20-years-on-from-the-jabiluka-mine-protest-we-can-find-hope-in-its-success>

### 20 years on from the Jabiluka mine protest, we can find hope in its success

Scott Ludlam, *The Guardian*, 03/04/2018

Like anti-Adani protesters today, those who stood up at Jabiluka were attacked. It's good to remember that people can prevail

One of Australia's proudest land rights struggles is passing an important anniversary: it is 20 years since the establishment of the blockade camp at Jabiluka in Kakadu national park. This was the moment at which push would come to shove at one of the world's largest high-grade uranium deposits. The industry would push, and people power would shove right back. ...

Those who stood up at Jabiluka, and at the Franklin river, and those who stand

today against Adani's coalmine will be accused of standing in the way of "progress", will be attacked by government and industry, and will cop huge fines for their acts of trespass and nonviolent obstruction.

• *Scott Ludlam is a Guardian Australia columnist*

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-03/uranium-mine-rehabilitation-jeopardised-nt-resources-department/9612056>

## Rum Jungle uranium mine rehabilitation jeopardised by NT Resources Department, traditional owners warn

Sarah Everingham, ABC, 03/04/2018

The long-awaited \$300 million rehabilitation of the abandoned Rum Jungle uranium mine in the Top End is being jeopardised by the Northern Territory Department of Resources and the Government should find another agency to run the project, Aboriginal traditional owners have warned.

The traditional owners for the mine site, about 105 kilometres south of Darwin, said they were losing faith in the department over its surprise decision to significantly downgrade the position of the senior mining scientist who'd been overseeing the rehabilitation project for the past six years. ...

Rum Jungle — one of Australia's oldest uranium mines — was set up in the 1950s with the support of the Commonwealth to supply uranium to the weapons programs of the US and British governments.

The mine closed 47 years ago but it was never properly rehabilitated and acid and metals have been leaching into parts of the nearby Finnis River ever since.

<https://www.echo.net.au/2018/04/nationals-push-nuclear-power-north-coast-madness/>

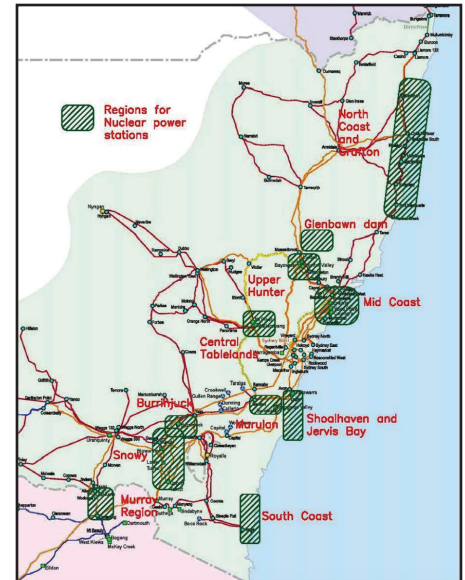
## Nationals rule out nuclear power 'madness'

*Echonetdaily*, 06/04/2018

The NSW Nationals have ruled out plans for building a nuclear power station on the north coast in the face of mounting pressure to do so 'once and for all'.

Labor candidate for the seat of Ballina, Asren Pugh, made the call in the wake of the recent attendance at a US nuclear industry conference by NSW Nationals leader and Deputy Premier, John Barilaro.

But Mr Barilaro's spokesman told *Echonetdaily* there were 'abso-



*Nuclear For Climate Australia has identified 18 potential nuclear power sites in NSW and wants over 40 Australia-wide. Picture: nuclearforclimate.com.au*

lutely' no plans for such plants on the north coast nor nuclear energy 'anywhere in NSW'. ...

Mr Pugh said Mr Barilaro not only participated in the US conference but was a key speaker, billed as one of the 'Biggest Names in Nuclear'.

He said that since returning to Australia from the International SMR and Advanced Reactor Summi, in Atlanta, Mr Barilaro 'has been spruiking nuclear power right across NSW, claiming that it could be a reality within 10 years'.

## FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/backbench-test-for-turnbull-on-energy-policy/news-story/h0066f90d8161779cb4846c463c39cf2>

### Backbench test for Turnbull on energy policy

Greg Brown & Joe Kelly, *The Australian*, 03/04/2018

Liberal MP Craig Kelly and Nationals MP George Christensen yesterday claimed more than 20 government MPs had joined the newly created Monash Forum, named after World War I military hero John Monash, a key figure in opening Victoria's Latrobe Valley to coal production.

*The Australian* was told last night that Barnaby Joyce had thrown his support behind the new informal political faction along with up to 11 other Nationals. The former deputy prime minister did not respond to requests for comment.

The lobby group could threaten the

Prime Minister's national energy guarantee (NEG) as he attempts to secure support from state and territory governments for a new national framework later this month. ...

Mr Christensen last week sent a message to Nationals MPs asking them to join.

"We are setting up a new group called the Monash Forum encouraging the government in the promotion of and facilitation of and/or construction of coal-fired power stations," he wrote. "Why Monash? Because he opened the La Trobe coal reserves and oversaw the construction of coal-fired power there."

Mr Christensen said there needed to be more federal government support for coal-fired power. He said the government should "secure" Liddell power station in the NSW Upper Hunter and then expand the baseload network. \$

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/pro-coal-group-monash-forum-no-challenge-to-pm-craig-kelly/news-story/97bcb9d8e4583bf7ef0c6751d73325a8>

### Ginger group calls on government to invest in 'Hazelwood 2.0' coal-fired power plant

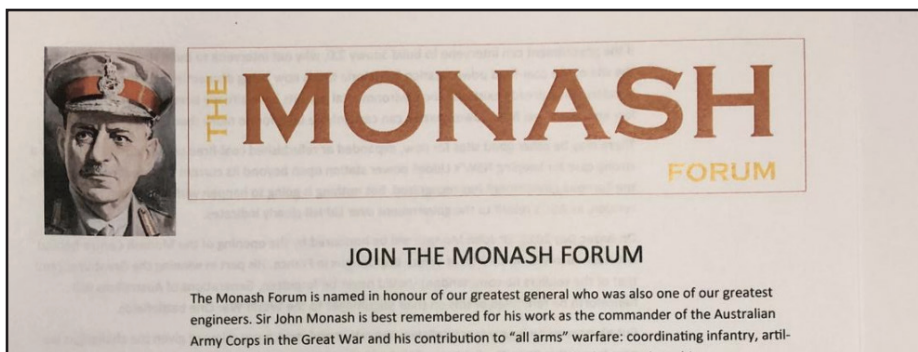
Greg Brown & Rachel Baxendale, *The Australian*, 03/04/2018

The Monash Forum believes the government should build a \$4billion power Hazelwood 2.0 power station in Victoria's Latrobe Valley while exploring further sites for coal-fired plants.

The manifesto of the Coalition ginger group, obtained by *The Australian*, calls on signatories to advocate for the affordable and reliable power "that our parents and grandparents had". ...

The new Monash Forum group has more than 20 government members including former prime minister Tony Abbott, Liberal MP Craig Kelly, Nationals MPs George Christensen and Barnaby Joyce who are worried about the high cost of electricity and want to see new coal-fired power stations. The new forum is named after World War I military commander (Sir) John Monash, who was a key figure in opening Victoria's Latrobe Valley up to coal production.

Mr Kelly, who is chair of the parliamentary backbench committee on energy and the environment said he backed government intervention to build coal-fired power stations because the long-term investment was difficult for the private sector. \$



**The Monash Forum, a group of Coalition MPs pushing for government-funded HELE coal power, has been asked by descendants of General John Monash to cease using his name, which was appropriated without consultation. Photo: Facebook**

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/tony-abbott-led-push-on-energy-policy-struggles-to-find-serious-numbers-to-threaten-pm-20180403-p4z7ky.html>

### Tony Abbott-led push on energy policy struggles to find serious numbers to threaten PM

David Crowe, *SMH*, 03/04/2018

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull is spurning a backbench push to ramp up support for coal as critics including Tony Abbott work to force a shift in direction on energy policy but struggle to secure widespread support. ...

Mr Turnbull's allies on Tuesday blamed a backbench "ginger group" for trying to undermine the Prime Minister ahead of any agreement, and the government's expected loss of its 30th Newspoll survey next week.

The rebel MPs claim 20 signatures or more for a statement that backs the use of coal for electricity generation and calls for an end to renewable energy subsidies, reviving demands they made in the Coalition party room last year.

The signatures include fewer than 10 Liberal MPs out of a party room of 85, signalling their difficulty in mounting a serious challenge to Mr Turnbull. Another 10 members or more are Nationals. ...

RSL national president Robert Dick rebuked the Liberal and Nationals MPs for appropriating the name of a war-time hero for a political agenda.

"The RSL would not support the use of Monash's name in this regard," Mr Dick told Fairfax Media.

"We believe that Monash's name is sacrosanct and should be above this form of political posturing."

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/a-new-coal-fired-power-plant-would-cost-3-billion-drive-up-energy-prices-and-take-eight-years-to-build-20180403-p4z7jg.html>

### A new coal-fired power plant would cost \$3 billion, drive up energy prices and take eight years to build

Nicole Hasham, *SMH*, 03/04/2018

A backbench push for a new taxpayer-funded coal fired power station has been derided as "ludicrous" by energy analysts who believe it would cost at least \$3 billion, drive up energy prices and take eight years to build. ...

The chair of the Coalition's backbench energy and environment committee, Liberal MP and climate change sceptic Craig Kelly, said the group - known as the Monash Forum - wanted to address rising power prices, which he claimed were caused by the renewable energy target and closure of coal power plants.

Mr Kelly told Fairfax Media a high efficiency, low emissions plant could be built at the site of the now-closed Hazelwood power station in Victoria's Latrobe Valley.

If the private sector was unwilling to build it, the federal government should step in and "build one in its entirety, from scratch", he said.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/climate/barnaby-joyce-joins-insurrection-seeking-hazelwood-20/news-story/a596a9124fb17ed640853994080c1765>

### Barnaby Joyce joins insurrection seeking 'Hazelwood 2.0'

Joe Kelly & Greg Brown, *The Australian*, 04/04/2018

Barnaby Joyce has lashed out at Malcolm Turnbull's signature energy policy and rejected assurances it was "technology agnostic", as he joined a backbench insurrection to pressure the government into building a \$4 billion "Hazelwood 2.0" coal-fired power station.

In his first major criticism of government policy since standing down as deputy prime minister in February, Mr Joyce told *The Australian* he had signed up to the newly established Monash Forum because he wanted to make “absolutely certain” that the national energy guarantee delivered new coal-fired power stations. “I was aware of it and I signed it; it would have been remarkable if I hadn’t,” Mr Joyce said. “HELE (high-efficiency, low-emissions) coal-fired power plants are not the Dickensian dark satanic mills of many a year ago.” \$

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/columnists/paul-kelly/abbottjoyce-monash-forum-undermines-turnbull/news-story/d40629f15e20eae81d3b0d47b936c37c>

### Abbott-Joyce Monash Forum undermines Turnbull

*Paul Kelly, The Australian, 04/04/2018*

The idea that drives the latest core conservative revolt — a new coal-fired power station run by the government, if needed — is delusional and flawed at every point. It fails on policy, politics and consumer grounds. The conservatives are becoming coal power socialists. They are losing the plot.

This push is surely one of the most bizarre transitions on record. It cannot succeed. But the damage it can do is potentially huge. Smart Coalition backbenchers should keep their nerve and stand by the existing National Energy Guarantee policy endorsed last year by the cabinet and partyroom.

Given Tony Abbott and Barnaby Joyce as spear carriers, this push is guaranteed to ignite populist conservatives and their media champions across the nation. The drums will be beating — but many backbenchers have refused to sign. ...

The government seems caught in conflicting emotions. Is it trying to destroy Turnbull’s leadership without having any successor in mind? Is it determined to ignite a new internal brawl over energy policy without having a viable alternative option? Has it given up on the election in pursuit of domestic battles it intends to wage in opposition? \$

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/deadheads-of-coal-wars-aren-t-worthy-of-a-giant-like-john-monash-20180404-p4z7ow.html>

### Deadheads of coal wars aren’t worthy of a giant like John Monash

*Tony Wright, SMH, 04/04/2018*

Almost on the eve of the last Anzac Day of the centenary of World War I, with

the Australian Prime Minister about to dedicate a major memorial on the Western Front to the nation’s greatest general, John Monash, a small group of malcontents - double entendre intended - decides to draft Monash’s name into a political argument over ... coal!

What a squalid exercise. What a pathetic moment in Australian history.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/scott-morrison-warns-of-high-costs-of-new-coal/news-story/9c1fee190fcb58912e4dcb6ba205abe>

### Scott Morrison warns of high costs of new coal

*Ben Packham & Joe Kelly, The Australian, 04/04/2018*

Scott Morrison says the days of cheap coal-fired power are over, warning electricity from new High Efficiency Low Emissions coal plants costs twice as much as power from generators built in past.

In a reality check to Coalition backbenchers who want the government to pay for a \$4 billion HELE coal plant, the Treasurer said “there is a difference between old coal and new coal”.

“Old coal bids into the energy grid at around about \$30 per megawatt hour wholesale up to \$40,” Mr Morrison told the AFR’s Banking and Wealth Summit.

“A new HELE plant, five, six or seven years down the track, it is estimated it would be bidding at around \$70 or \$80.” \$

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/coal-advocate-matt-canavan-dismisses-monash-forums-proposed-subsidies/news-story/6c9a23f01dd7f71b9a4425df0aa811bd>

### Coal advocate Matt Canavan dismisses Monash Forum’s proposed subsidies

*Rachel Baxendale, The Australian, 04/04/2018*

The Turnbull cabinet’s strongest advocate for the coal industry, Matt Canavan, says he does not believe government subsidies are needed to build coal-fired power stations ...

Speaking from his Central Queensland home town of Rockhampton, Resources Minister Senator Canavan said he was a strong backer of the coal industry, but did not support government subsidies. ...

Senator Canavan said he was not a signatory to the Monash Forum letter. ...

Amid news of a [bid from Alinta Energy to buy the ageing Liddell coal-fired power station](#) in the NSW Hunter Valley from AGL, Senator Canavan said he couldn’t fathom why AGL would not

consider selling.

“I’ll be visiting Liddell later this week on a scheduled trip that’s been in my diary for some time, but I’ll be visiting Liddell to hear first-hand from AGL exactly what the situation on the ground is there because I don’t quite get it,” Senator Canavan said. \$

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-04/abbott-dismisses-morrison-coal-fired-power-station-warning/9619394>

### Tony Abbott dismisses Scott Morrison’s warning about new coal-fired power plants

*Louise Yaxley, ABC, 04/04/2018*

Electricity from new coal-fired power plants would cost twice as much as power from existing coal power stations, Treasurer Scott Morrison has warned.

However, former prime minister Tony Abbott said Mr Morrison made more sense when he brandished a lump of coal in Question Time last year. ...

“Scott Morrison himself came into Question Time one day a few months ago and waved around a big lump of coal and said to the Labor Party: “This is coal, this is a good thing, don’t have coal phobia,” he said.

“I thought he was making a lot more sense that day than he was today.”

The group of conservative politicians pushing the Government to invest in new coal-fired power stations includes former ministers Kevin Andrews, Eric Abetz and Mr Abbott.

It chose the name “Monash Forum” because World War I General Sir John Monash was involved in developing a brown coal-fired power industry in Victoria.

But General Monash’s descendants have asked the MPs stop using that name.

“It has come to our attention that a group of conservative politicians have formed themselves into a lobby group for coal,” they said in a statement.

They said they were direct descendants of the General and “at the very least it was discourteous to use it without informing us”.

“More than that, we disassociate ourselves specifically from the forum’s use of the Monash name to give their anti-science and anti-intellectual argument an air of authority and we ask that they withdraw the name,” the statement said.

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/tensions-rise-inside-the-coalition-over-energy-policy-20180404-p4z7sb.html>

## Tensions rise inside the Coalition over energy policy

Mark Kenny, SMH, 04/04/2018

Senior cabinet ministers have offered sharply different public positions over the future of new coal in Australia, as tensions inside the Coalition deepen over energy and climate policy.

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/tony-abbott-to-mark-30th-losing-newspoll-for-malcolm-turnbull-with-visit-to-latrobe-valley-power-stations-20180404-p4z7sl.html>

## Tony Abbott to mark 30th losing newspoll for Malcolm Turnbull with visit to Latrobe Valley power stations

Chael Koziol, SMH, 04/04/2018

Former prime minister Tony Abbott will mark the Turnbull government's 30th losing Newspoll by visiting the electricity generation hub of the Latrobe Valley, as he ramps up his campaign for new taxpayer-funded coal-fired power stations.

Mr Abbott will embark on the Pol-lie Pedal, a charity bike ride that he co-founded in 1997, from Melbourne on Sunday, cycling his way to Canberra while raising money for the veterans' support group Soldier On.

He told 2GB radio on Wednesday that the route would likely take the peloton through the Latrobe Valley, in Gippsland east of Melbourne, on Monday. He said the region had been "a wonderful source of cheap, reliable power" for Australians for many years. ...

As well as raising money for a deserving cause, the annual Pol-lie Pedal has provided Mr Abbott with a week-long, lycra-clad platform to comment on his successor's [Turnbull's] decisions and political fortunes.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/planet-oz/2018/apr/05/you-dont-have-to-be-a-climate-science-denier-to-join-the-monash-coal-forum-but-it-helps>

## You don't have to be a climate science denier to join the Monash coal forum, but it helps

Graham Readfern, The Guardian, 05/04/2018

There seems to be three rules for membership of the [Coalition's new backbench Monash Forum](#) that wants taxpayer subsidies for new coal fired power stations.

Firstly, you have to really love the life-giving and [not-really-all-that-deadly](#) rock from the late Permian and Carboniferous which, if they made it into a snack bar, you would totally



want to eat it and then rub the bits left sticking to the wrapper all over your naked form.

Second, you need to harbour a deep dislike for renewable energy, which you find untrustworthy and suspicious because its feedstock is as illusive as catching sunbeams and harnessing atmospheric pressure differences.

Thirdly, you need to have enough respect for a great Australian war hero and nation builder – Sir John Monash – that you'd appropriate his name and legacy for your own little coal gang.

Oh no wait, there are four rules. Because, most importantly, to qualify for coal star membership of the Monash Forum, you need to be a climate science denier – a proper one that goes to climate denial meetings on the other side of the world and gives speeches and stuff. ...

The undermining of mountains of scientific evidence over the course of more than two decades has poisoned and politicised an issue that was urgent two decades ago. ...

The thinktanks that want to tell you that the science is flawed are the same ones still pushing coal, still lobbying against clean energy and still trying to sell that mythical clean coal. ...

Once they've stopped selling us subsidised coal, they no doubt have a great line in second hand typewriters that you could use to knock out your next fax.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/monash-forum-sir-johns-descendants-ask-lobby-group-to-find-another-name/news-story/df77bf853f99e46a73db-46423fef695c>

## Monash Forum: Sir John's descendants ask lobby group to find another name

Olivia Caisley, The Australian, 05/04/2018

Former deputy prime minister Tim Fischer has demanded MPs behind the ginger group the Monash Forum change its name by "sunset Friday", echoing criticism of relatives of General Sir John Monash.

"The name of John Monash deserves to

be treated with great respect, indeed he deserves to be posthumously promoted to the rank of field marshal," Mr Fischer, who is chair of the Saluting Monash Council, said.

Descendants distanced themselves from the newly launched Monash Forum coal lobby group, saying their ancestor would have been "a proponent" of renewable energy.

In a scathing statement released by the Monash family yesterday, some of his descendants distanced themselves from the ginger group, which promotes government support to build new coal-fired power stations. ...

Signed by seven members of the Monash family, including Swinburne University of Technology post-doctoral fellow Mark Durre, artist Caroline Durre and Escient director Michael Bennett, the statement describes the new lobby group as "discourteous" for using the World War I general's name without permission. \$

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/horse-and-buggy-era-monash-descendants-slam-government-s-coal-push-20180405-p4z7th.html>

## 'Horse and buggy era': Monash descendants slam government's coal push

Latika Bourke, SMH, 05/04/2018

The descendants of Sir John Monash have issued a blistering statement asking a rebel group of climate sceptic government MPs to stop using the Australian war-hero's name to push for "horse-and-buggy era" policies.

Seven of Sir John's descendants blasted the group, which includes former prime minister Tony Abbott, Queensland Nationals MP George Christensen and Liberals Eric Abetz, Kevin Andrews, Craig Kelly for using the Monash name without first checking. ...

"While we have no claim to legal control of the use of the name, we do assert moral rights to its use for ideological purposes," the statement said.

"At the very least, it was discourteous to use it without informing us, more than that, we disassociate ourselves specifically from the Forum's use of the Monash name to give their anti-science and anti-intellectual argument an air of authority and we ask that they withdraw the name.

"While Monash himself was no left-wing radical in his personal politics, he was intellectual and scientific," the statement continued.

“He certainly led the development of coal for power generation in Victoria for the benefit of the community, but that was in the context of the time almost a century ago, when coal-fired electrical generation was the leading technology.

“We are sure that, today, he would be a proponent of the new technologies e.g. wind and solar generation, rather than revert to the horse-and-buggy era.” ...

Dr Ariel Liebman from Monash University’s Energy Materials and Systems Institute said Sir John would be “rolling in his grave”.

“I imagine the call to roll back technological progress by investing in more brown coal generation would have Sir John rolling over in his grave,” he said.

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/monash-forum-trick-leaves-conservatives-divided-20180405-p4z7yi.html>

### Monash forum trick leaves conservatives divided

David Crowe, SMH, 05/04/2018

What some MPs thought of as a policy forum was turned into a leadership challenge behind their backs. They were gulled.

Liberals were approached to sign up to the new group, called the Monash Forum, in the last few days of federal parliament before the Easter break. All they saw was a single sheet of A4 paper with some vague principles on energy policy and an impressive picture of one of Australia’s greatest military leaders. ...

All they created was a Potemkin village of coal power agitators – all facade, no substance. It is hard to be sure which of them looks like the biggest Potemkin village idiot.

<https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/odowd-doubles-down-on-coal-fired-power/3378189/>

### O’Dowd doubles down on coal-fired power stance

Andrew Thorpe, Gladstone Observer, 04/04/2018

Flynn MP Ken O’Dowd has confirmed he is part of the pro-coal Monash Forum, a group of government backbenchers pushing for the construction of a new coal-fired power station. ...

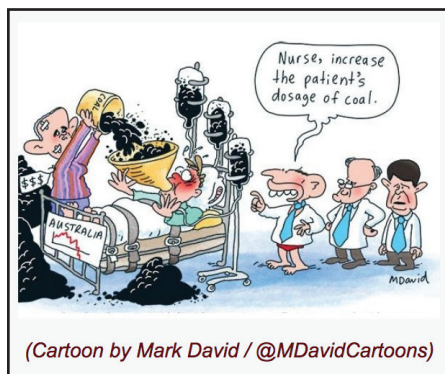
Mr O’Dowd yesterday said the group had existed informally for “quite some time” and at its core was aimed at reducing power prices. ...

When asked about the effect investing in coal-fired power would have on the

changing climate, Mr O’Dowd pointed to the construction of coal-fired stations overseas and said power prices were his main concern.

He said new data from the National Pollutant Inventory showing high levels of particle emissions in Gladstone strengthened his case for a newer, HELE (high efficiency low emissions) power station to be built so that it could take over once Gladstone Power Station reached the end of its life.

That station should be built in Gladstone rather than elsewhere in Australia due to the natural advantages held by the city, according to Mr O’Dowd.



(Cartoon by Mark David / @MDavidCartoons)

Mark David’s cartoon accompanying *Independent Australia’s Monash Forum story*. Pic: *Independent Australia*

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/abbott-and-kellys-pro-coal-monash-forum-unlikely-to-burn-brightly-or-for-long.11368>

### Abbott and Kelly’s pro-coal ‘Monash Forum’ unlikely to burn brightly or for long

Marc Hudson, *Independent Australia*, 05/04/2018

The coal industry has a new voice in parliament, in the form of the so-called [Monash Forum](#) – an informal government faction featuring former prime minister Tony Abbott and backbench energy committee chair [Craig Kelly](#). ...

In seeking to deliver new coal-fired power stations, the new Monash Forum is attempting to mine a seam that has already been extensively tapped.

The [Minerals Council of Australia](#), which merged with the Australian Coal Association in 2013, has been trying for years to kickstart public support for coal. Who could forget the [‘Australians for Coal’](#) and [‘Little Black Rock’](#) campaigns, or last year’s [‘Coal: Making the future possible’](#)? ...

The problem for coal’s proponents is that most Australians are [keen to see the back of it](#). The promised global

wave of HELE (high efficiency, low emission) coal plants has [failed to materialise](#). And stunts such as [Treasurer Scott Morrison waving a lump of coal in parliament](#) are derided by a public who are far more energised by the prospect of renewables. ...

Perhaps that is the ultimate aim of the Monash Forum and those who share its goals. Renewable energy may win in the end, but it will win slowly enough that coal can earn one last payday.

• [Marc Hudson](#) is a PhD Candidate at the [Sustainable Consumption Institute, University of Manchester](#).

[http://lnk.edition.crikey.com.au/1/Ajv\\_TFULrzechViFXxFO-cDw?utm\\_source=FractionNext&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_campaign=Insider-Subscribe-060418](http://lnk.edition.crikey.com.au/1/Ajv_TFULrzechViFXxFO-cDw?utm_source=FractionNext&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Insider-Subscribe-060418)

### LEAKED: true facts about coal (according to the Monash Forum)

Ben Pobjie, *Crikey*, 06/04/2018

FFB note: Satire alert!

With all the misinformation floating about our news media, it’s sometimes hard to find the truth about coal. The Monash Forum has released this information sheet to separate the MYTHS from the FACTS.

MYTH: Coal-fired power contributes to global warming.

FACT: ... burning coal FIGHTS global warming ...

MYTH: Coal is less environmentally friendly than other power sources such as solar energy.

FACT: Coal is actually made from PLANTS, unlike the sun, which is made of poisonous gas. ...

MYTH: Coal tastes bad.

FACT: Coal has a rich, smoky flavour that many leading food critics have praised ... \$

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/opinion/david-speers-why-a-new-coal-fired-power-station-doesnt-stack-up/news-story/882cf386b305ee8840cfbd40bb92ba6>

### David Speers: Why a new coal-fired power station doesn’t stack up

*Daily Telegraph*, 07/04/2018

The two-page letter titled “Join The Monash Forum” repeats the question that Abbott has been asking for months.

“If the government can intervene to build Snowy 2.0, why not intervene to build Hazelwood 2.0 on the site of the coal-fired power station in Victoria that’s now being dismantled?”

There are a number of reasons why. The first problem is Hazelwood is the

## News this week ... from previous page

wrong site. It's in Victoria's La Trobe Valley, which has brown coal. New high-efficiency, low-emissions plants are much cheaper to run using black coal. The best stuff is in the NSW Hunter Valley, followed by Queensland.

Even the most ardent coal supporters at the Minerals Council of Australia aren't suggesting a new brown coal-fired plant in the La Trobe Valley.

Then there's the cost.

Analysis for the Minerals Council shows a new black coal plant could deliver electricity at \$59 per Megawatt hour. That's cheaper than any other analysis, but still nearly twice the price of existing coal-fired power.

It's also based on the plant running at full capacity. The reality is coal-fired power stations no longer do.

All those solar panels on homes across the country aren't just there for show. They are being used when the sun is shining. Wind power is actually used when the wind is blowing.

Coal is certainly more reliable, but the 24/7 demand for coal power is no longer there. The game has changed.

This is why no one is building new coal-fired power stations in Australia. ... The Monash Forum may be another headache for Turnbull, contributing to his woes, but its central proposal simply doesn't stack up. \$

• *David Speers is political editor at Sky News.*

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/consumers-are-sick-of-coalitions-coal-fantasy-they-are-going-solar-29278/>

### Consumers are sick of Coalition's coal fantasy: They are going solar

*Giles Parkinson, Renew Economy, 6/04/2018*

Prime minister Malcolm Turnbull may have done more for renewable energy in Australia than he is given credit for.

Turnbull's refusal to tackle the climate deniers and the fossil fuel ideologues within his own Coalition government has helped spark the biggest rush to rooftop solar the world has seen, and a powerful economic force that will quickly unravel the business model of so-called baseload coal.

Since Turnbull came into power in late 2015 – after unseating Tony Abbott, but not his predecessor's climate and energy policies – the rate of uptake of rooftop solar in Australia has more than doubled. ...

The shift should not be surprising. The political deadlock and the lack of any clear policy division has contributed to a huge surge in electricity prices since the Coalition scrapped the carbon price.

Households can comfortably get a four-to-six year payback, and they are looking to take a leaf out of Turnbull's playbook and put as much solar as they can on the roof, with an eye to the future (storage and electric vehicles), and because it makes financial sense. ... The fact that the coal boosters are scoring a massive own goal should not be surprising.

Where does this rush to rooftop solar leave us? With a highly distributed grid and less room for inflexible coal plants. The business model for coal is being destroyed faster than the Coalition and the fossil fuel industry can think of ways to prop it up.

<https://www.moreechampion.com.au/story/5323798/one-womans-crusade-to-end-coal-seam-gas-mining/>

### Jacky Cain wants end to CSG mines, pushing for renewable energy future

*Aidan Wondracz, Moree Champion, 05/04/2018*

The future is looking bleak if coal seam gas mines continue to pop up around Australia, according to environmental activist Jacky Cain.

"These mines create pollution that damages this world. This isn't just going to affect us, but future generations," she said.

Jacky joined rank with thousands of other protesters to march through the streets of Sydney in late March, calling

2019, they won't get my vote," Jacky said. ...

For Jacky, one of her biggest fears is that the mines will make their way towards Moree. She said, on some level, she was already feeling the changing tide.

"The heat today is much worse than it was when I was growing up as a child."

She said, at times, the fight against coal mining was overwhelming.

"It makes me cry. I am a peacemaker, but these people are destroying the earth."

To combat it, Jacky said she hoped to host a meeting in the community to spread the message on the impacts of coal seam gas on the environment.

"The only way that we are going to stop this, is through people power. People need to be made aware of what is happening around them."

<https://www.australianmining.com.au/news/bhp-parts-ways-world-coal-association/>

### BHP parts ways with World Coal Association

*Ben Creagh, Australian Mining, 06/04/2018*

BHP has confirmed it will leave the World Coal Association (WCA) because of differing views on how climate change concerns can be managed. ...

The WCA responded that it was disappointed by BHP's decision to leave, based on one claimed material policy difference, given it was involved in developing this position on energy and climate change. ...

BHP will, however, continue to work with the Minerals Council of Australia (MCA) to advocate policies that are aligned between the two parties. It will also remain a member of the United States Chamber of Commerce despite the two parties have conflicting stances on energy and climate change.

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