

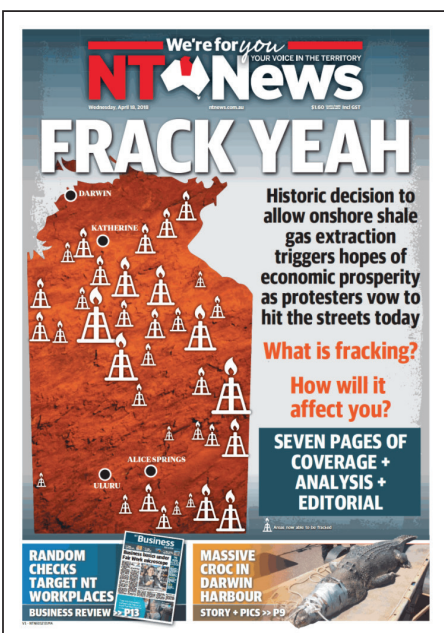
# Fossil Fool Bulletin

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

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

FFB 1:21 • 24 APRIL 2018

## Environmentalists dismayed as Northern Territory government sets off frack frenzy



*The Murdoch press went on a frack frenzy over recent days, following the NT Labor government's decision to give fracking the go-ahead.*

The NT News, in particular, printed a week-long orgy of pro-frack news.

The gas industry was portrayed as an economic saviour, despite there being plenty of evidence to the contrary from Queensland.

Meanwhile, Lock the Gate said, “The Gunner Government has failed Territorians, especially regional and remote Territorians, who oppose fracking due to its devastating impacts on land, water and businesses.

“This is a slap in the face for all of the Territorians who have stood up and opposed fracking to protect their liveli-

hoods in tourism, agriculture, pastoralism and fishing,” said Lock the Gate’s Naomi Hogan.

“More than half of the Northern Territory is now at risk of fracking – at risk of damage from thousands of fracked gas wells, water impacts and widespread industrialisation.

“Justice Pepper’s report included 135 recommendations and identified serious information gaps.

### Risky ‘frack and see’ approach

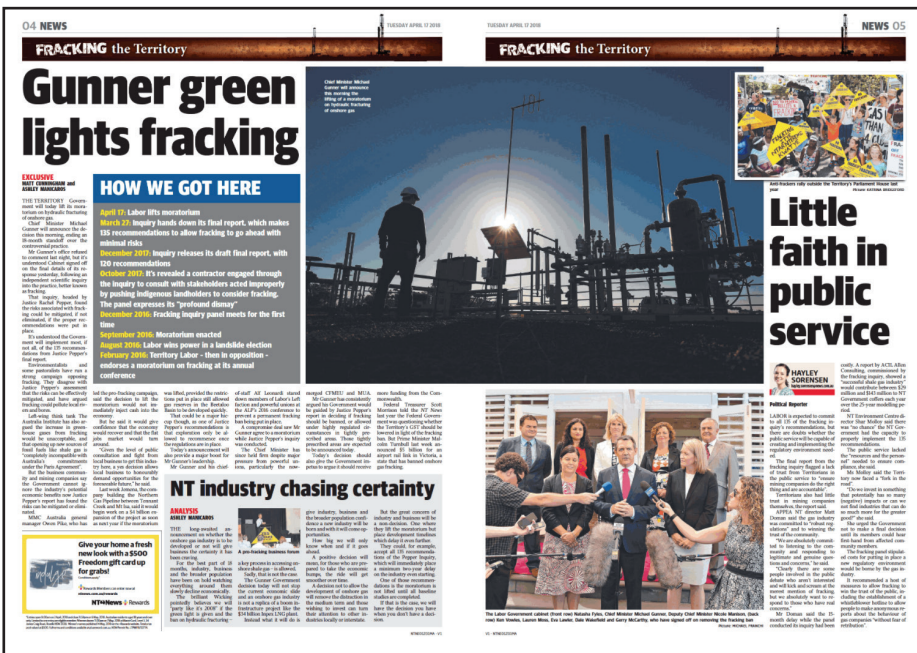
“Lifting the moratorium before studies are done demonstrates a risky ‘frack and see’ approach, which has been heavily influenced by the gas industry.

“Chief Minister Gunner had a chance to be a leader and stand up to protect the Territory’s interests, and he squandered it in the face of bullying from the high risk gas industry and the Federal Government.

“The high cost of fracking, the clean up bill and expensive attempts to regulate this dangerous industry will outweigh any limited fracking revenue.

“The Gunner Government can be certain that the depth of opposition to this invasive industry will continue to grow across the tourism, cattle and farming industries as the threat of fracking gasfields becomes very real and urgent.

“Territorians everywhere will be holding the government accountable, and will band together strongly to prevent gas companies riding roughshod over communities and the Territory’s water resources.”



• P 2: Jemena pipeline co exempt from new rules

• P 4: Santos caught dumping on road

• P 10: Frack frenzy news round-up

## Jemena exempt from new NT gas rules

By Josh Meadows,  
Environment Justice Australia

*A company that will benefit from the Northern Territory government lifting its fracking moratorium successfully lobbied to gain exemptions from new national gas rules, Environmental Justice Australia (EJA) has revealed.*

As the NT Government announces [an end to the ban on fracking](#), EJA has uncovered a recent financial report by Jemena, the company building the Northern Gas Pipeline between Tennant Creek and Mt Isa, that shows it has gained exemptions from new national gas rules.

Rules about information disclosure, contract negotiations and dispute resolution were introduced in August 2017, placing new obligations on businesses in the gas and pipeline industries.

But Jemena has admitted its lobbying has borne fruit, declaring in a recent financial report: "Management successfully worked with the Northern Territory Government to secure a derogation from the new Rules for the Northern Gas Pipeline." (SPSG (Australia) Assets Pty Ltd, 2017 Financial Report, p 36)

Jemena is expected to get a financial windfall from the decision to lift the fracking moratorium.

EJA is concerned that the NT government's Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing glossed over the climate

risks of fracking.

"The inquiry defied its terms of reference to arrive at a conclusion that climate change risks can be managed, without assessing whether or not that is possible," said David Barnden, Principal at EJA.

"In a world threatened by climate change, the scientific inquiry used verbal sleight of hand to draw a politically palatable conclusion that would allow the government to lift the ban on fracking.

"Jemena, the Chinese government owned company that will benefit from the ban being lifted, has already been successful in lobbying the NT government to exclude the company from complying with new rules for gas pipelines on transparency and access.

"Jemena's latest financial reports also reveal it is being audited by the Australian Taxation Office for possible tax evasion.

"On the information available to us we suggest the first order of business for the [new NT Independent Commission Against Corruption](#) should be an investigation into influence by a Chinese state owned company on the NT government," he said.

In June 2016 Environmental Justice Australia [wrote](#) to the ATO asking it to investigate Jemena's corporate restructuring and compliance with transfer pricing laws for \$800 million in so-called 'convertible instruments'.

## NT should take note of Qld real estate crash after gas boom

*Amongst the joys of fracking being promoted in the NT is a gas-fuelled real estate bonanza.*

The NT News interviewed three Darwin real estate agents who enthused about a coming stimulous for house prices. People were encouraged to get into the property market and take advantage of rising rents and sale prices. (See p15.)

Neither the journo's nor the agents thought of checking out the boom and bust in Queensland that has seen many people hit with big-time losses.

From the gasfields on the Darling Downs to the end of the pipeline at the Gladstone LNG terminals, investors are trying to off-load properties, often at less than the cost of building them.

### Reposessed homes selling a loss

Earlier this month the *Courier-Mail* reported that more than 80% of Gladstone homes were selling at a loss, and that most sales were reposessed homes.

This was a result of a boom during the LNG construction phase in 2011-2012 which put Gladstone "on every property investor's wishlist". Once the three Curtis Island plants were complete, the city encountered an ongoing severe downturn.

Down south, similar events have blighted the real estate market in towns like Miles, Chinchilla and Tara.

From about 2008, during the gasfield construction phase, residential blocks were selling for up to \$200,000. After spending \$450,000 building a nice home, investors were reaping \$1,000 a week in rent.

*News.com.au* recently reported that, these days, a reposessed building block in Miles will go for around \$20,000.

There are homes that cost \$700,000 to build being sold for \$200,000. If tenants can be found, rents are as little as \$150 a week.

Meantime, locals are left with much higher rates to maintain the infrastructure built to service the boom, but their homes are often worth even less than they were prior to the gas rush.

## Santos CSG irrigation halted at Leewood, NSW

Santos has 'voluntarily ceased' irrigating with a fodder crop with treated coal seam gas waste water at Leewood.

NSW Gas Ban says, "It's unclear why, no announcement, no information – just that there are problems with the government departments responsible as the consent authority – is all we can tell you at the moment.

"Technical issues with the irrigation. Or maybe it's as simple as the crop turned up it's toes and the government are trying to work out why?"

"We note here that the brine pond is looking empty – this pond had the legacy brine from Bibblewindi and carries the permeate stream from the Leewood WTP – where did it all go?"



*The irrigation area, on April 14, 2018, and (below) an empty brine pond.  
Photos: Wando Conservation and Cultural Centre*



## Revolving door: APPEA head kicker joins WA Premier's staff

*A former director of the pro-fracking Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association has been appointed as a strategic adviser on WA Premier Mark McGowan's staff.*

The appointment comes amid growing public concern over the risks of fracking, and as the government prepares to decide whether to give it the green light.

*The West Australian* said the election of Mark McGowan had the oil and gas industry worried about a more restrictive environment than they had previously enjoyed.

"McGowan's decision to re-employ former Labor strategist Kieran Murphy has put paid to those concerns," the newspaper said. "Murphy played a hard game of spin and revelled in having a reputation as a head kicker."

A spokesperson for Lock the Gate in WA, Jane Hammond, said the appointment of the director of external affairs for the peak oil and gas body APPEA, Kieran Murphy, to Premier Mark McGowan's inner sanctum should sound alarm bells across the state.

"Premier Mark McGowan has chosen to appoint a senior APPEA external affairs and media director to advise him on strategy in the run up to his decision on whether or not to ban fracking in our state," Ms Hammond said.

"Just this week Mr Murphy was listed as the contact for APPEA as it extolled the virtues of the Northern Territory's greenlight to fracking in a media release that urged the WA Government and other states to lift their fracking moratoria.

"We have a fracking inquiry that is only just starting to digest the reams of scientific evidence presented to it by concerned scientists, community members and physicians and yet the Premier appoints the head of APPEA's PR department to advise him.

"Mr McGowan must explain this appointment and the relationship this adviser role will have with the fracking decision in WA."

## Botched blast blankets vineyards with cloud of orange dust

*Mount Thorley coal mine. Photo: Lock the Gate*



***Hunter Valley vigneroners are furious at the new owner of two of the region's biggest mines after a botched blast on Friday April 13 again sent a cloud of pollution over local farmland.***

At 11:53 on Friday morning, a blast at Yancoal's Mount Thorley Warkworth mine sent a huge cloud of orange dust over nearby farmland.

Local landholders have written to the Department of Planning saying Yancoal should be investigated and its licence suspended until such time that they can demonstrate that they have the competence to conduct blasting operations without creating environmental harm.

Antony Bainton of Bainton Family Wines said, "This is not an isolated incident. Yancoal has demonstrated a total lack of respect for the health and livelihoods of its neighbours.

"These mines are huge and they are causing pollution that is damaging people's health. The least the Government could do is ensure they are complying with their licences. We need better protection."

Broke vigneron Stewart Ewan said, "The Broke Fordwich wine region hosts thriving wineries but we don't have sufficient protection from the coal mines. We get blanketed by pollution at times, and the land mapped five years ago as a critical industry cluster for our industry is not protected from expanding coal mines.

"The physical and economic damage caused by open cut mining remains a serious blight on our environment. The air quality in the Hunter over the summer and autumn has been terrible. We've been getting frequent alerts that it breaches the standard, but what's being done to change it?"

Georgina Woods, spokesperson for Lock the Gate Alliance said, "We think it's time to choose action to safeguard the Hunter wine industry, and that means enforcing environmental conditions and ensuring our industry is safe from being gobbled up by expanding coal mines."

**FFB**

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- Sydney. May1
- Canberra. May2
- Melbourne. May3
- Adelaide. May4
- Perth (live stream). May4
- Darwin (live stream). May4

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350  
Australia

350.org founder Bill McKibben's Australian speaking tour kicks off this Friday, April 27. Bookings are open now –

<https://350.org.au/accelerate>

## Eyewitnesses give account of Santos pollution

*No registration plate, no identifying marks – this truck was seen spraying a foul-smelling liquid on the road near the Santos Fairview gasfield in Queensland. Photo: North West Protection Advocacy*



*With the expected release of the response to submissions for the Narrabri Gas Project in coming days, two significant pollution incidents have been witnessed at the Santos Fairview tenement near Injune, Qld.*

The events were spotted during last month's fact-finding trip by farmers and community members concerned about the spread of the coal seam gas industry to NSW.

Santos has responded by Twitter to allegations about road-spraying with untreated produced water, saying: "In compliance with Santos' Environmental Authority, clean water is sometimes used on bitumen in hot weather to protect the road surface and shoulders."

Anna Christie, one of the tour organisers who witnessed the incidents, said "There is no question at all that this was not clean water as described by Santos, and nor was the road affected by heat. The tanker approached from the direction of Rig 968 and started spraying an obnoxious smelling liquid onto the public road before our eyes."

Fearing the risks of Santos' Narrabri Gas project and NorthWest Slopes high-pressure gas pipeline affecting a huge swathe of NSW, the tour to Queensland's Western Downs region inspected the Fairview Project, widely regarded as Santos Ltd's 'jewel-in-the-Crown' gasfield in that State.

The waste water tanker was observed spraying liquid onto a bitumen road

for several kilometres in the vicinity of a Santos gas compression station and a coal seam gas drill rig. The tanker had no identifying marks and no licence plates.

"No doubt when members of the [NSW Planning Assessment Commission went on their industry-chaperoned tour](#) to view the Queensland gasfields in March 2017, they would not have seen anything like this, and the same could be said of Narrabri Shire Councillors who came in 2014," Ms Christie said.

The NSW Planning Commission (now known as the NSW Independent Planning Commission) attracted severe criticism from community groups over its secret gasfields tour conducted under escort by the CSG industry, on the grounds of perceived bias.

### Fairview 103 leaks seen and heard

Earlier on the same day, Fairview 103 was observed to be both visibly and audibly leaking gas and waste.

"You could see it around the seal there bubbling, obviously their system, or their procedure here or their maintenance is not up to date, or the technology is not right," said farmer Tony Smith, from Warren, NSW.

The tour was organised by North West Protection Advocacy, Coonabarabran, in association with Wando Conservation and Cultural Centre, Narrabri.

## News this week

**Adani's** low profile continued, with the company reportedly dodging media attention to avoid criticism. But that didn't deter a group of **50 religious leaders** from several faiths delivering a letter, urging abandonment of **Carmichael Mine** plans, to Adani's Townsville HQ.

**Environment Victoria** has called for a \$90m fund for failed 'clean coal' projects in the **Latrobe Valley** to be invested in a **transition** away from brown coal for the community. The call came as commentators planned the latest **brown coal-to-hydrogen** project in the valley, which will produce tonnes of CO2 for which there is no viable capture and storage technology.

**Origin Energy** slashed its Darling Downs workforce by 75, as gasco's struggle to make a profit from the region's **CSG** wells.

Incredibly, the **South Australian government** gave a key environmental approval to **Leigh Creek Energy** for its Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) project. This is the same technology recently banned in Queensland after **Linc Energy's** UCG went **rogue** and polluted hundreds of kilometres of land around its gasifiers.

**Metgasco**, the company ousted from the Northern Rivers after the historic **Bentley Blockade**, sacked board member Andrew Purcell during infighting. The company still has a **stash of cash** following a licence buy-back by the NSW government.

NSW **National Party** leader John Barilaro is still intent on seeing **nuclear power** in Australia. Fresh back from the Advanced Reactor Summit in Atlanta, Georgia, Barilaro wants to import small, modular reactors from the USA. Barilaro accuses opponents of "**ignorant, 1970s**" thinking.

The **Minerals Council of Australia** backed him with a call for the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act to allow **nuclear industries** to take off. Pity about the insoluble nuclear waste problem!

And finally, the lifting of the **NT frack ban** dominated the news, and this week's FFB.

# In the news this week:

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 33,500 words of news for your convenience. Click on the [links](#) to view original articles. (\$) = subscription may be required

## THE ADANI SAGA

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/tweed-shire-council-attempting-to-blacklist-adani-contractors/news-story/1d3f3d7607299ac5de081cad62f97353>

### Tweed Shire Council attempting to blacklist Adani contractors

Nicholas McElroy, *Gold Coast Bulletin*, 18/04/2018

Tweed Shire Council is trying to blacklist contractors linked to a controversial coal mine project proposed by Indian energy company Adani more than 1200km away in central Queensland. ...

A 4-3 vote in October, won by council's green bloc led by Mayor Katie Milne, resolved to establish an anti-mine policy and to write to Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk outlining concerns about the project and its possible environmental impacts.

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/50-religious-leaders-say-no-to-adani-mine>

### 50 religious leaders say no to Adani mine

SBS, 18/04/2018

More than 50 religious leaders have banded together to urge Adani to abandon its Queensland coal project and invest in renewable energy instead.

Christian ministers, rabbis, nuns, ordained Buddhists and imams from across Australia have written a letter that will be hand-delivered to Adani's Townsville headquarters on Wednesday. ...

The leaders oppose all new coal mining in the Galilee Basin. ...

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/stop-adani-protesters-target-qa/news-story/9c0139964936af25ae85a91505bdd56f>

### Stop Adani protesters target Q&A

*Courier-Mail*, 9/04/2018

Stop Adani activists are planning to flood the audience of an upcoming Q&A program on the ABC.

Meanwhile, Adani has stopped any public announcements on the setting of deadlines for its Carmichael coal project to avoid giving activists an opportunity to target the company. ...



*Fifty religious leaders of several different faiths hand-delivered a letter to Adani's Townsville HQ opposing the proposed Carmichael Mine. Photo: contributed*

The ABC said Q&A had processes in place to ensure that it had a balanced audience every week.

## COAL ROCKS ON

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-16/moura-road-crack-from-mine-blast-not-fixable/9662304>

### Road to nowhere: Central Queensland community left powerless after mining road blast

Rachel McGhee & Inga Stünzer, *ABC*, 16/04/2018

A Central Queensland community that lost access to a vital road after a routine mine blast has been told the road is unfixable and the only option is a new road on a new route. ...

In its community update, Anglo American stated it would negotiate with individuals in terms of compensation, but it had not received any state government penalties.

A spokesperson for the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy said because Gibihi Road was located within Anglo American's mining lease, in accordance with the legislation, it had surface area rights and, subsequently, no penalties or compensation was applicable.

<https://www.themorningbulletin.com.au/news/no-compensation-outrages-locals-affected-by-gibihi/3392933/>

### No compensation outrages locals affected by Gibihi Rd damage

Leighton Smith, *Rockhampton Morning Bulletin*, 21/04/2018

A serious case of road rage is brewing regarding the destruction of Gibihi Rd, which passes next to the Dawson Mine near Moura.

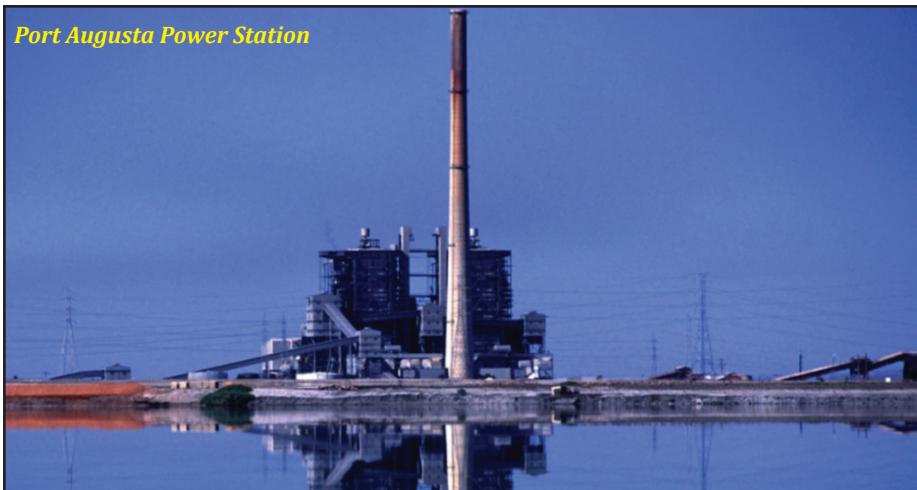
The local community lost access to the road after a routine mine blast in November caused cracks up to 90 metres deep with the only option now a new road on a new route.

Local grain farmer John Eden said the massive inconvenience caused by the detour had him out of pocket thousands of dollars in wasted fuel and time. ...

Minister For Natural Resources, Mines And Energy Dr Anthony Lynham said "There is no legal requirement for Anglo American to compensate users of Gibihi Rd."

When he learnt of the State Government's response, Mr Eden said it "left a nasty taste in his mouth" and he didn't expect more given "we're just a minnow in the ocean" compared to the multinational corporation they were up against. ...

Port Augusta Power Station



<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-16/port-augusta-power-station-clean-up/9653688>

### Port Augusta Power Station clean-up leaves residents dust-covered and disappointed

Angelique Donnellan, ABC, 16/04/2018

The clean-up of decommissioned coal-fired power stations is a new challenge for Australia, and one regional South Australian community says it's being denied clean air because of problems with remediation.

Dust from the closed Port Augusta power station is being whipped up by strong winds and residents are worried about their health. ...

Local resident Brett Prentis said the dust was coming from a 270-hectare dam at the power station site that held half a century of ash from coal burning.

The site's operator Flinders Power capped the dam with 15 centimetres of soil and planted seedlings, but Mr Prentis said there had been little rain and there was no irrigation, resulting in the dust. ...

[Alinta CEO Geoff] Dimery said the funding was "ample" but ruled out irrigation of the seedlings.

"It's uneconomic to irrigate the site. I mean natural rain will take care of it. We've had an unusually dry period," he said.

Port Augusta Mayor Sam Johnson said the community remained concerned about the corporate separation of Flinders Power from Alinta, and of its offshore links.

"We understand the company goes back to the Cayman Islands," he said. ...

<https://independentaustralia.net/environment/environment-display/how-many-mps-does-it-take-to-launch-400-brown-coal-to-hydrogen-jobs,11402>

### How many Coalition MPs does it take to launch 400 'brown coal' jobs

Belinda Jones, Independent Australia, 16/04/2018

On Thursday (12 April), Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, Deputy Leader of the House [Darren Chester](#), Senator [Michaelia Cash](#), Member for McMullan [Russell Broadbent](#) and others gathered in Victoria's Latrobe Valley with business leaders from Australia and Japan.

They were all there to spruik plans to convert Australia's abundant reserves of [brown coal to hydrogen](#) — a "clean" energy source. ...

[Senator Kim Carr wrote] 'Hydrogen can be extracted from brown coal, in a process known as gasification. This process, unlike hydrogen fuel-cell cars themselves, does generate large amounts of carbon dioxide.'

And therein lies the main problem. Carr admits in his article that 'large amounts of carbon dioxide' will be produced through the gasification process and in order to mitigate those emissions going into the atmosphere, the 'brown coal to hydrogen' technology relies entirely on [geosequestration](#).

The [CO2CRC](#) Project, designed to support the CarbonNet Project, will build on existing research and development facilities at the CO2CRC Otway National Research Facility. CO2CRC lists among its Board Members, former Resources Minister, [Martin Ferguson](#).

Whistleblower [Simone Marsh](#) cites Ferguson as one of the people instrumental in applying pressure to stakeholders, including then Environment Minister [Peter Garrett](#), to approve Queensland's LNG plants and downstream coal seam gas (CSG) operations. ...

Hindsight is a wonderful thing, so perhaps Australia should give more consideration to pumping copious amounts of CO2 under the seabed into a seismically active whale migration corridor. It may not be the best course of action to risk our pristine aquatic environment just to produce "clean" hydrogen fuel for Japan — nor to believe industry feasibility research as we all did in the case of CSG fracking. ...

Perhaps this should happen before we commit to "brown coal to hydrogen" production — despite the eagerness of politicians and the mining and resources sector to exploit Australia's vast reserves of brown coal for export markets and a mere 400 jobs.

<https://www.theage.com.au/environment/climate-change/browned-off-90m-clean-coal-program-ends-as-final-project-collapses-20180418-p4zacj.html>

### Browned off: \$90m 'clean coal' program ends as final project collapses

Royce Millar & Ben Schneiders, The Age, 18/04/2018

The last of a long list of government-backed "clean coal" projects has fallen over, with the Andrews government reluctantly confirming the end of a \$90 million program announced amid much fanfare six years ago.

After days of pressing by The Age, Treasurer Tim Pallas' department issued a statement announcing the conclusion of the joint federal and state Advanced Lignite Demonstration Program (ALDP) after the collapse of the program's remaining scheme — a plan to turn Gippsland coal into char and oil by a company called Coal Energy Australia. ...

The confirmation of the failure of the advanced lignite program comes just days after both the Turnbull and Andrews governments promised to sink another \$100 million into another experimental scheme for the Latrobe Valley, this time a \$500 million, Japanese-backed plan to extract hydrogen from brown coal.

The new coal-to-hydrogen scheme is the latest grand plan seeking alternative uses for the brown coal which has powered the Victorian economy for decades but is much maligned in an era when slashing emissions is government policy.

State and federal governments, both Labor and Coalition, have repeatedly backed projects in the hope they might revive the Latrobe Valley.

Not one of the slew of supported projects has succeeded.

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Redirect funds from failed 'clean coal' project, environmentalists say  
Campaigners say \$90m should be used instead to help Latrobe Valley transition away from brown coal  
THEGUARDIAN.COM

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/apr/20/redirect-funds-from-failed-clean-coal-project-environmentalists-say>

## Redirect funds from failed 'clean coal' project, environmentalists say

*Calla Wahlquist, The Guardian, 20/04/2018*

A \$90m fund set aside for failed "clean coal" projects in the Latrobe Valley should be spent on helping the region transition away from reliance on coal, Environment [Victoria](#) has said. ...

Environment Victoria campaigns manager Dr Nicholas Aberle said investment in the Latrobe Valley should diversify away from a reliance on brown coal.

"[Brown coal is] seen as this amazing, bountiful resource and that it would be a waste not to use it but we are getting to the point where we need to stop even thinking of this as a resource," he said. "It's a thing that is under the ground, but if there's nothing we can do with it then it's not a resource."

<https://www.perthnow.com.au/news/environment/carbon-storage-not-a-coal-lifeline-expert-ng-s-1851178>

## Carbon storage not a coal lifeline: expert

*Karen Sweeney, AAP, Perth Now, 19/04/2018*

Carbon capture and storage is a "propaganda campaign" to promote coal as viable but it's not the lifeline the industry claims it is, energy researchers say.

The federal government is considering legislation that would lift a ban on the Clean Energy Finance Corporation funding carbon capture and storage projects.

Australia Institute research director Rod Campbell told a parliamentary inquiry on Wednesday carbon capture and storage is a "fig leaf" that doesn't actually reduce emissions, it just changed where they were stored.

"In terms of riding to the rescue of the coal industry it's been a complete failure used as nothing more than a propaganda campaign," Mr Campbell said. ...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-20/borrooloola-water-supply-tests-positive-to-lead-contamination/9677638>

## Indigenous mining town residents demand blood tests after lead found in water

*Jane Bardon, ABC, 20/04/2018*

Indigenous residents in the Northern Territory mining town of Borrooloola are calling on the Health Department to blood test families, amid revelations their water supply has been contaminated with lead.

The Territory Government posted notices around the remote community on Thursday, telling residents of the Garawa 1 and Garawa 2 town camps not to drink, cook, or brush their teeth with the water. ...

Indigenous residents have feared lead would show up in their drinking water since 2014, when it was revealed Glencore's McArthur River Mine lead-zinc operation had contaminated cattle and fish. ...

In a separate revelation, the company was found to be responsible for the lead contamination of up to 400 head of cattle — but this was not made public until 2015, a year after it was found to have occurred. ...

<https://www.thesaturdaypaper.com.au/news/indigenous-affairs/2018/04/21/native-title-and-mining-leases/15242328006122>

## Native title and mining leases

*James Norman, Saturday Paper, 21/04/2018*

Under Australia's current Aboriginal land acts, Indigenous people have no legal right to say no to mining exploration on freehold land, meaning the only course open to them is to challenge each mining exploration licence through arduous court battles.

In a landmark case in the National Native Title Tribunal in March, the Olkola Aboriginal Corporation successfully objected to mining exploration permits being issued under "expedited procedure" in Queensland. ...

It was a significant victory and the first time an Indigenous group has been able to stop a mining company from exploring on their land under an expedited procedure in Queensland.

But now the Olkola people have to fend off another exploration program from the mining company Spitfire Materials, which wishes to start new exploration on land the Olkola argue is also a golden-shouldered parrot breeding ground. ...

[Chairman of the Olkola Aboriginal Corporation in Cape York, Mike] Ross

says his people should have the right to say no to mining on their country: "People need to listen to us. We are not able to say yes under our lore. And our lore has been here a lot longer." ...

## GAS, GAS, GAS

<https://www.chinchillanews.com.au/news/origin-local-job-loss-numbers-announced/3389758/>

## Origin local job loss numbers announced

*Madison Watt & Brooke Duncan, Chinchilla News, 17/04/2018*

Origin Energy has cut 75 jobs across the Western Downs as part of the company's restructure announced in January.

In total 32 local and 43 fly-in fly-out roles have been cut, with the losses offset by 16 new roles.

Origin Queensland senior external affairs manager Chris Zipf said ... "Looking ahead, 225 people - around a quarter of our workforce - will continue to work and either live or stay locally in Western Downs." ...

<https://www.chinchillanews.com.au/news/dash-for-gas-impact/3390547/>

## Dash for gas impact

*Madison Watt & Brooke Duncan, Chinchilla News, 19/04/2018*

Western Downs resident Shay Dougall [has] teamed up with people from across Australia and beyond to highlight potential human rights issues associated with the unconventional gas industry, which includes coal seam gas. ...

The Permanent Peoples' Tribunal on Human Rights, Fracking and Climate Change, run by a non-government organisation based in Rome, will examine the impacts of hydraulic fracturing and unconventional gas on people and the environment. ...

As part of the tribunal, 50 submissions have been uploaded detailing the impacts of the CSG industry on the lives of people across Australians and their environments. ...

For Uniting Church minister Graham Slaughter, hearing "the same story" from numerous landholders convinced him there were possible human rights issues occurring in regional Queensland as a result of the gas industry. ...

Resident Karen Auty said after 17 state and national inquiries into the issue, many of the people affected by the

industry felt disheartened and “sub-missioned out”.

“Submission fatigue is actually a syndrome that many people suffer, most of them farmers,” she said. ...

The Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association said, “Eight scientific inquiries in Australia have and continue to find that the onshore natural gas industry, including hydraulic fracturing, is a perfectly safe practice for gas extraction.” ...

“A small but vocal number of foreign-funded activist groups would have people believe that they are right and the scientists including the CSIRO are wrong.”

The four-day international tribunal will be held from May 14-18 and will be streamed live with a link available on the tribunal website.

Australian submissions to the tribunal can be found at [www.peopletribunalongas.org](http://www.peopletribunalongas.org). ...

<https://www.chinchillanews.com.au/news/western-downs-business-event-highlights-regions-po/3392579/>

### Western Downs business event highlights region's potential

*Madison Watt, Chinchilla News, 20/04/2018*

The region's biggest players in business and energy production gathered in Chinchilla last night for the Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise event.

Close to 100 people were in attendance, with representatives from APPEA, Senex Energy, AGL, Santos and Elgas, as well as Western Downs mayor Paul McVeigh and councillors Andrew Smith, Donna Ashurst, Kay McGuire and Peter Saxelby. ...

The Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association's Queensland director Rhys Turner said, “We are in the epicentre of something that's not really happening anywhere else in the world and that is large scale on shore gas production being scaled up for LNG and export, it's not happening anywhere at the size it's happened here.” ...

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/business/fracking-hasnt-contaminated-queensland-groundwater-in-six-years/news-story/863b5e79a21c4d91ad9e5d273c1329ca>

### Fracking hasn't contaminated Queensland groundwater in six years

*John McCarthy, Sunday Mail (Qld), 22/04/2018*

Fracking has not caused any significant

damage to Queensland's groundwater in the six years of major commercial development of the coal seam gas industry, according to the State Government.

The highly controversial practice has caused outrage among some landowners and environmentalists because of fears it will destroy the aquifers that farmers rely on. ...

The Government said there were 10,990 CSG wells drilled in Queensland and 881 were fracked.

“To date, the department has not identified any significant areas of non-compliance associated with hydraulic stimulation,” a departmental briefing note obtained by The Sunday Mail said.

That doesn't mean there are not impacts from the CSG industry. Official reports expect about 450 bores will be impacted by drawdowns as the industry progresses. Some will be significant but strict make-good arrangements are in place. ...

While the Government has given the practice of fracking the all-clear, Wambo feedlot owner Max Winders has a case against QGC in the Federal Court and another against Arrow Energy in Land Court over claims he has lost access to his groundwater.

In the past six years the Government has had about 150 complaints about bores being impacted by the CSG industry and has only intervened to make a judgment in five cases. ...



<https://www.transcontinental.com.au/story/5344481/atla-heal-our-country/>

### ATLA opposes UCG in Leigh Creek

*Marco Balsamo, The Transcontinental, 16/04/2018*

The Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association (ATLA) has declared that “enough is enough”, voting unanimously against underground coal gasification (UCG) in Leigh Creek and the proposed radioactive waste management facility near Hawker.

ATLA CEO Vince Coulthard said, “We don't want the dangerous gasification

project at Leigh Creek and we don't want the toxic nuclear waste dump either.” ...

ATLA's vote against a nuclear waste dump at Barndioota comes after a recent visit to the site by Minister for Resources and Northern Australia Matt Canavan.

The Minister declared that a postal vote would commence on August 20 to measure the community support for the proposed national radioactive waste management facility.

Mr Canavan vowed the facility would not go ahead without community approval.

<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/business/sa-business-journal/leigh-creek-energy-shares-have-jumped-after-a-key-state-government-approval-was-granted/news-story/7b18de9057ca403fef84389348076aaf>

### Leigh Creek Energy shares have jumped after a key State Government approval was granted

*Cameron Engl, The Advertiser, 19/04/2018*

Leigh Creek Energy shares have rocketed almost a third higher after the company received a key environmental approval for its underground coal gasification project in Far North South Australia.

The company said it had received “statement of environmental objectives approval” for its pre-commercial demonstration plant at its project at Leigh Creek.

The company is planning to produce gas from a pilot plant at the project by the end of June. ...

A group, the William Light Foundation, opposed to the project, which seeks to produce gas by extracting it from underground coal seams, said earlier this week it would seek to launch a Federal Court injunction to halt the project if it was not referred to federal regulators for further scrutiny.

Mr Lawry said while all groups had the right to have their voices heard during the approvals process the company was not worried by the possible legal move.

UCG has only been used once before in Australia, by Linc Energy, which this month was convicted on five counts of wilfully and unlawfully causing environmental harm in Queensland. Mr Lawry said there were no parallels with the Leigh Creek project. Leigh Creek shares added 5.5c to 22.5c yesterday.



<http://www.news.com.au/finance/real-estate/brisbane-qlld/bond-loses-dunk-island-lease/news-story/327ee-2a94a6dbfb3e674a9c667060ba8>

## Bond loses Dunk Island lease

*Sophie Foster, Courier-Mail, 21/04/2018*

Failed Brisbane businessman Peter Bond just can't seem to catch a break these days, with fresh salt rubbed into his wounds propertywise — this time involving his prized Dunk Island lease.

Fresh off a multi-million loss over the sale of his forever home in Fig Tree Pocket to Clive Palmer — the man who grew Linc Energy into a half a billion dollar listed company and then saw it collapse in 2016 — has had to endure losing yet another dream. ...

Tourism firm Experience Co ... was awarded the Dunk Island Spit [lease].

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-14/chevron-announces-5-billion-gorgon-gas-expansion-off-wa/9658804>

## Chevron announces Gorgon gas expansion off WA coast

*Sarah Collard, ABC, 14/04/2018*

Industry leaders and the State Government have welcomed Chevron's decision to proceed with the second stage of the multi-billion-dollar Gorgon project expansion off Western Australia's north-west coast.

The latest phase of the large-scale gas project, which is situated 150 kilometres off the WA coast, north of Onslow, is estimated to cost several billion dollars and create hundreds of jobs in the resources sector.

It will include new wells in the Gorgon and Jansz-lo fields, as well as drilling, sub-sea installation and pipe-laying while the major gas sub-sea expansion is underway. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/apr/17/dont-believe-the-hype-on-natural-gas-its-a-fossil-fuel-just-like-coal>

## Don't believe the hype on natural gas. It's a fossil fuel just like coal

*Fiona Stanley, Graeme Pearman & Richard Yin, The Guardian, 17/04/2018*

Australia is currently aggressively developing its natural gas resource. By the end of 2018, it is likely to [overtake Qatar](#) as the world's largest liquefied natural gas (LNG) exporter. ...

Gas has been promoted as a "bridging" fuel in the transition to a zero-carbon economy, due to its greater flexibility and lower emissions when compared to coal. However, it is still a fossil fuel with significant greenhouse gas emissions on combustion. Furthermore, any advantage it has over coal is lost



*PMG Pride has been the subject of protest as it conducts seismic testing off Newcastle for Asset Energy.*

with even small rates of leakage, as methane is a far more potent greenhouse gas than CO<sub>2</sub>. There are [limits to gas](#) use if we are to keep to a global carbon budget that restricts warming to less than 2°C as agreed to in Paris. ...

• *Fiona Stanley and Richard Yin are members of Doctors for the Environment Australia. Graeme Pearman is an adjunct senior research fellow at the School of Earth, Atmosphere and Environment at Monash University*

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5342824/protest-as-seismic-testing-off-newcastle-coast-moves-ahead/?cs=305>

## Newcastle seismic testing protests as Advent Energy project ramps up

*Matt Carr, Newcastle Herald, 15/04/2018*

Protests greeted the start of seismic testing off Newcastle on Saturday.

The vessel conducting the work left the Port of Newcastle on Saturday afternoon as protests ramped up on Hannell Street. ...

Former Greens leader Bob Brown attended Saturday's Carrington protest, speaking to the crowd of hundreds as the vessel conducting the survey departed.

"Here we have [federal Resources Minister Matt] Canavan agreeing to license that damage [to sea life] for corporate exploiters to search for oil and gas to accelerate global warming with its future catastrophic economic effects," Mr Brown told the rally. ...

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5347994/queensland-sand-sculptor-joins-newcastle-seismic-testing-protest/?cs=305>

## Dennis Massoud sand sculptures feature in Newcastle anti seismic testing protest at Nobbys Beach

*Nick Bielby, Newcastle Herald, 17/04/2018*

A collection of dolphin sand sculp-

tures was the centrepiece of a protest against gas exploration off the east coast on Tuesday.

As Advent Energy – the company conducting seismic testing about 30km from Newcastle – continued its operation, protestors gathered at Nobby's Beach to voice their fears that shooting acoustic pulses into the ocean floor will harm the marine environment. ...

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5344916/therell-be-a-lot-of-dead-fish-concern-over-seismic-testing/?cs=305>

## Newcastle Co-op braces for impact of seismic testing on commercial fishing industry

*Nick Beilby, Newcastle Herald, 17/04/2018*

A lot of dead fish – that's the fallout a Hunter commercial fishing industry leader expects after seismic testing is finished off the coast of Newcastle. ...

Newcastle Commercial Fishermen's Co-operative general manager Robert Gauta said there were no noticeable impacts on Monday morning's seafood haul – but that was because the weather was too rough for the regular fishers to work in the test area.

Recalling the impacts of seismic testing off the coast of Port Stephens in 2010, he said he expected the marine ecosystem in the test zone to be affected for months. ...

<https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/companies-keen-to-build-hydrogen-pilot-plants-on-s/3389790/>

## Companies keen to build hydrogen pilot plants on state land

*Tegan Annett, Gladstone Observer, 18/04/2018*

International companies are showing increasing interest in building pilot plants in Gladstone to test new technology in hydrogen production.

Member for Gladstone Glenn Butcher said the region had the land, the port and the skilled workforce to home Australia's next big investment in hydrogen.

Mr Butcher said companies were exploring the possibilities of building pilot plants at the Gladstone State Development Area to test new technology to make hydrogen out of coal, ammonia or renewable energy. ...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-19/metgasco-latest-crisis-director-ousted-alleged-breach-duties/9675648>

### Metgasco's latest crisis: Director ousted for alleged breach of duties

*Stephen Long, ABC, 19/04/2018*

When Andrew Purcell is asked how serious a breach of directors' duties it would be for a director to seek a secret, personal benefit in return for supporting a deal in the interest of shareholders, he answers with a vigorous nod.

"That would be against directors' duties, yes," he agrees.

That conduct is precisely what Mr Purcell, who this week was voted off the board of the ASX-listed oil and gas venture Metgasco, has been accused of by the chairman of the company which ousted him — an allegation he flatly denies. ...

[https://www.desmogblog.com/2018/04/18/finance-great-american-fracking-bubble?utm\\_source=dsb%20newsletter](https://www.desmogblog.com/2018/04/18/finance-great-american-fracking-bubble?utm_source=dsb%20newsletter)

### The Secret of the Great American Fracking Bubble

*Justin Mikulka, DeSmog Blog, 18/04/2018*

In 2008, Aubrey McClendon was the [highest paid](#) Fortune 500 CEO in America, a title he earned taking home \$112 million for running Chesapeake Energy. Later dubbed "[The Shale King](#)," he was at the forefront of the oil and gas industry's next boom, made possible by advances in fracking, which broke open fossil fuels from shale formations around the U.S.

What was McClendon's secret? Instead of running a company that aimed to sell oil and gas, he was essentially flipping real estate: acquiring leases to drill on land and then reselling them for five to 10 times more, something [McClendon explained](#) was a lot more profitable than "trying to produce gas." But his story may serve as a cautionary tale for an industry that keeps making big promises on borrowed dimes — while its investors begin losing patience, a trend DeSmog

will be [investigating in an in-depth series](#) over the coming weeks. ...

## NUKE MADNESS

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/john-barilaro-to-push-the-nuclear-power-button/news-story/bab8853166732f22c23c22c55731eac4>

### John Barilaro to push the nuclear power button

*Adam Creighton, The Australian, 17/04/2018*

Acting NSW Premier John Barilaro will declare nuclear power "inevitable" in a speech that slams "ignorant, 1970s" thinking for preventing development of the nation's uranium reserves and condemning residents to blackouts.

The speech by the state Nationals party leader, seen by The Australian and to be delivered on Wednesday night at an energy policy forum in Sydney, calls for small modular reactors, likely imported from the US, to reduce dependence on high-emission coal and gas-fired power over the next five to 10 years. ...

Mr Barilaro ... recently returned from an Advanced Reactor Summit in Atlanta, Georgia. ...

"While acceptance of nuclear as a solution is increasing among the general population, the political classes have continued to avoid the issue bizarrely on environmental grounds, based on ignorance and lack of political courage," the Barilaro speech will say. ...

The Minerals Council of Australia, a proponent of nuclear power, said the federal nuclear ban could be reversed "with a single amendment to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. "The removal of four words — 'a nuclear power plant' — would allow nuclear industries to be considered for development in Australia," it said.

## FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.globalminingreview.com/finance-business/17042018/resources-2030-taskforce-concludes-first-meeting/>

### Resources 2030 Taskforce concludes first meeting

*Stephanie Roker, Global Mining Review, 17/04/2018*

The Queensland Resources Council (QRC) welcomes the appointment of Resource Industry Network (RIN) General Manager Adrienne Rourke to the Federal Government's Resources 2030 Taskforce.

QRC Chief Executive Ian Macfarlane said Rourke from the Mackay-based

RIN was a tireless advocate for the resources sector who had worked extensively with engineering and technology firms to supply the operations of the coal rich Bowen Basin. ...

Minister for Resources and Northern Australia Matt Canavan set up the taskforce to ensure Australia's resources sector competed internationally and to build community support domestically.

## NT FRACK FRENZY

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-15/beetaloo-basin-at-the-heart-of-the-nt-fracking-gas-debate/9652390>

### Beetaloo Basin: What do we know about the region at the heart of the NT fracking debate?

*Bridget Judd, ABC, 15/04/2018*

The Beetaloo Sub-Basin, around 500 kilometres south-east of Darwin, sits in the Sturt Plateau region, between Mataranka to the north and Elliott to the south.

Farmers, businesses and the industry alike remain at odds over its place in the fracking debate — but one thing they can all agree on is that it is a bounty for gas. ...

The NT fracking inquiry's report noted that if the moratorium was removed, there would need to be additional drilling and reservoir modelling to understand the extent and nature of the resources.

This would require "at least another 12 months' work, possibly more," and it was "unlikely" that any shale gas production in the Beetaloo Sub-basin would occur in fewer than three years.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-17/fracking-to-resume-in-the-northern-territory-moratorium-lifted/9666022>

### Fracking set to resume in the Northern Territory as moratorium lifted

*Georgia Hitch & Sarah Everingham, ABC, 17/04/2018*

Fracking is set to resume in the Northern Territory, following the Government's decision to lift a moratorium but enforce strict new laws and regulations on the industry.

Mr Gunner said he expected fracking exploration to begin in the middle of next year.

He said it would be at least six months for data to be collected on methane levels across the Territory. ...

But Mr Gunner said the decision to lift its moratorium on fracking was not influenced by Federal Government

pressure to allow the process.

Members of the Federal Government, including Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, had previously called on Mr Gunner to lift the ban to help boost national gas supply. ...

The Federal Minister for Resources and Northern Australia, Matt Canavan, said he was glad the NT Government listened to the inquiry's recommendations.

Lock the Gate NT coordinator Pauline Cass said the decision "betrayed Territorians".

"The Government hasn't kept the faith with Territorians. Territorians voted for a moratorium," she said.

"It's a total betrayal and let down for all of us that are trying to protect our water."

<http://www.ntnews.com.au/news/northern-territory/fracking-given-green-light-by-nt-government/news-story/e6c02f2e0e0eb837be33154b41a299c>

### Fracking given green light by NT Government

*Matt Cunningham, Ashley Manicaros & Hayley Sorensen, NT News, 17/04/2018*

The Labor Government's fracking moratorium has been lifted, as revealed exclusively by the NT News.

But 49 per cent of the Territory's landmass will be covered by "no go zones" and will remain off-limits to gas companies. ...

Five of the recommendations have been given "in-principle support", with an implementation plan expected to be complete in July.

Those recommendations include that the Government introduce a charge for water for all onshore shale gas activities, that gas companies pay for maintenance for roads used by gas projects and that the Government enact a compensation scheme for pastoral lessees. In-principle support has also been given to the recommendation to amend NT court rules to not allow cost decisions to be made against someone who has brought litigation against the industry when that litigation is deemed to be "genuinely in the public interest".

The no go zones will cover areas of environmental, agricultural and cultural significance, as well as indigenous protected areas, national parks, towns and residential areas and places with significance to the tourism industry. ...

<http://www.ntnews.com.au/news/northern-territory/lock-the-gate-slams-shameful-nt-fracking-decision/news-story/6977b01c8ecd8c5f4b9e8221eddcc101>

### Advocacy groups slam NT Govt over decision to lift ban on fracking

*Jason Walls, NT News, 17/04/2018*

The Environment Centre NT has criticised the Territory Government for "breaking their election promise to consult during, and following, the (hydraulic fracturing) report" in lifting a ban on the practice.

ECNT chief executive Shar Molloy said the government "cannot be trusted" to implement the 135 recommendations handed down by Justice Rachel Pepper.

"They're not only not listening to Territorians but they're not listening to well over 30 climate scientists that have urged the NT government not to go ahead with this." ...

In contrast, NT Cattleman's Association CEO, Paul Burke, said pastoralists were "fairly supportive" of what had been announced.

<http://www.ntnews.com.au/news/northern-territory/voter-backlash-to-follow-fracking-decision/news-story/80a692b8addf798c3f02e2c5eadee391>

### Voter backlash to follow fracking decision

*Hayley Sorensen, NT News, 17/04/2018*

Whichever side of the fence they stand on, Territorians feel strongly about fracking.

There are few issues which have been as divisive.

There were 1269 submissions made to the fracking inquiry — many from industry and interest groups, but many came from ordinary voters, motivated to take the time to put pen to paper and have their say.

There is understandable community angst about the NT's ability to safely and successfully regulate an onshore gas industry.

The Montara oil spill and contamination from the McArthur River mine have eroded public trust in the Territory's abilities. ...

<http://www.ntnews.com.au/news/opinion/time-to-accept-fracking-in-nt/news-story/7fa1f506d38d77a305e32506c3aee5a7>

## Time to accept fracking in NT

NT News, 17/04/2018

The Gunner Government's decision today is a smart one for the Territory. It will provide jobs, revenue and flow-on wealth for our future. Anti-frackers have their hearts in the right place. They want the same thing as the pro-frackers and other Territorians who support the fracking industry: a happy, healthy place to live. ...

The umpire has made its call and it's time to get fracking.

<http://www.ntnews.com.au/news/northern-territory/business-confidence-and-jobs-boost-with-todays-decision/news-story/2418d7e3181654a0aa5ccdc7fc08dct4>

## Business confidence and jobs boost with today's decision

Ashley Manicaros, NT News, 17/04/2018

Today's decision to allow the development of an onshore gas industry by the Gunner Government will boost the Territory's business confidence which has slumped to the worst in the country, the Chamber of Commerce NT said.

CCNT chief executive Greg Bicknell welcomed the decision as energy companies including Origin Energy and Jemena indicating they will press ahead with their plans as soon as practical. Jemena predicting it will create thousands of jobs as consequence of today's decision. ...

<http://www.ntnews.com.au/news/northern-territory/fracking-decision-wont-stop-economic-slide-but-will-at-least-give-some-certainty-for-businesses/news-story/7002826b200260a90287a1d9f67ad3e8>

## Fracking decision won't stop economic slide, but will at least give some certainty for businesses

Ashley Manicaros, NT News, 17/04/2018

The long-awaited announcement on whether the onshore gas industry is to be developed or not will give business the certainty it has been craving.

For the best part of 18 months, industry, business and the broader population have been on hold watching everything around them slowly decline economically. ...



<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/apr/17/northern-territory-lifts-fracking-ban-opening-up-700000-sq-km-to-gas-exploration>

## Northern Territory lifts fracking ban, opening up 700,000 sq km to gas exploration

Staff & agencies, The Guardian, 17/04/2018

The first exploration fracking by petroleum companies is expected to occur early next year after the implementation of a regulatory regime and new laws, which the government insists will be strict. ...

The Australia Institute's research director, Roderick Campbell, said the decision to allow fracking would have a huge impact on Australia's carbon emissions and would wipe out emissions savings from the Territory government's 50% renewables target "one hundred fold". ...

"This is a huge cost for such meagre economic gains. The inquiry also found that the most likely outcome was that few jobs would be created and little revenue raised for the NT."

The national director of the Seed Indigenous Youth Climate Network, Amelia Telford, said the government had betrayed Territorians.

"There is not one place in the world where fracking hasn't ended badly," she said. "The Gunner government has made a grossly irresponsible decision today in allowing gas companies to act on plans for polluting fracking gas-fields across the NT."

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/state-politics/end-of-fracking-ban-to-lower-power-bills/news-story/3ae342165dabb195be2cb77ae36576a2>

## End of fracking ban 'to lower power bills'

Joe Kelly & Amos Aikman, The Australian, 18/04/2018

The Victorian and NSW governments are holding out against developing their states' sizeable gas reserves, despite the Northern Territory yesterday declaring it would open up more than half of its land for fracking to boost jobs and put downward pressure on power bills.

The Gunner government's decision to lift its two-year blanket moratorium on fracking, following a \$5.1 million, 15-month scientific inquiry, was endorsed by Malcolm Turnbull, who said it was a "great day for Territorians" and would open the "door to new opportunities, creating thousands of jobs". ...

Federal Energy Minister Josh Frydenberg said development of new gas resources in the Territory could alleviate some of the pressure on the east-coast gas market, helping to push down prices. ...



<http://www.ntnews.com.au/news/northern-territory/decision-made-attention-now-turns-to-nt-fracking-implementation/news-story/f70d22fb23ad9771bb0369e11fc51110>

## Decision made, attention now turns to NT fracking implementation

Hayley Sorensen, NT News, 18/04/2018

Fracking royalties are expected to begin to flow into the Northern Territory's depleted coffers within five years.

It will take much longer for full scale gas production to begin. Before production approvals are granted, strategic regional environmental and baseline assessments must be conducted. Those assessments are expected to take about three years to complete.

And they won't come cheap. Chief Minister Michael Gunner estimated yesterday the cost of conducting the assessments would be between \$20 million and \$40 million.

That cost won't be borne solely by the NT — Northern Australia Minister Matt Canavan yesterday said the Commonwealth would be willing to help through the Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance program. ...

<http://www.ntnews.com.au/news/northern-territory/antifrackers-vow-to-fight-on-in-wake-of-nt-gvt-decision/news-story/1211c4ea2596b3f48df1e9b2b7fe9d73>

## Anti-frackers vow to fight on in wake of NT Gvt decision

Jason Walls, NT News, 18/04/2018

Environmental campaigners opposed to fracking say they have not given up

**CONTACT FFB: Email**  
[fossil.fool.bulletin@gmail.com](mailto:fossil.fool.bulletin@gmail.com)  
 with your comments & tips

the fight following yesterday's green light, with some immediately scrambling to organise protests for today. ...

<http://www.ntnews.com.au/news/northern-territory/concerns-about-alice-springs-water-contamination-risk-in-wake-of-fracking-decision/news-story/9c33bae-c13ef2d116bd9cad450fc43f8>

### Concerns about Alice Springs water contamination risk in wake of fracking decision

David Lornie, NT News, 18/04/2018

Environmentalist Alice Springs Councillor Jimmy Cocking has fears for the town's water supply now the fracking moratorium has been lifted.

This is despite the NT Government saying it has drawn a fracking exclusion zone around the Central Australian town. ...

"We actually source our water from the bore field which is outside of the municipal area. The aquifer is outside of the municipal area, so our concern is that there isn't a reserve over the Mereenie Aquifer where we source our water from. This gives rise to potential risks for contamination should fracking proceed in that area."

Mr Cocking said he would like to see the aquifer excluded from the fracking zone.

"We've also got concerns, particularly for the people who live out in the remote areas who don't have any potential restrictions, who will be at risk of having frack fields just next door," he said. "And the small pockets of communities and station people living on stations who won't necessarily have the protections afforded to more urban residents." ...



Fracking decision – bad

The NT Government knew it was offending a great many of its supporters by allowing an onshore gas industry to develop.

KATHERINETIMES.COM.AU

<https://www.katherinetimes.com.au/story/5347877/fracking-decision-bad/?cs=1459>

### Fracking decision – bad

Chris McLennan, Katherine Times, 17/04/2018

The NT Government knew it was offending a great many of its supporters by allowing an onshore gas industry to develop. ...

Frack-free NT condemns the decision

by the Gunner Government today to cave into industry pressure and expose 51% of the Northern Territory to fracking gasfields.

"This decision is a betrayal of the science on the risks of fracking, and Territory communities who have battled for years to protect our land, water and livelihoods from this highly invasive industry," said Lauren Mellor, spokesperson for Frack-free NT.

"It is a dark day for our democracy when we have had unprecedented participation in the Inquiry into fracking, and tens of thousands of Territorians petitioning, rallying and meeting with government members to express their opposition to fracking, only to have the Gunner Government sell us out to the interests of multinational fracking companies." ...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-18/hundreds-protest-gunner-government-lift-on-nt-fracking-ban/9671888>

### Hundreds protest against Northern Territory Government's decision to lift fracking moratorium

Lucy Marks, ABC, 18/04/2018

The Northern Territory Government has faced a backlash from protesters over its decision to lift a moratorium on fracking, while the Chief Minister travelled interstate for a conference.

About 250 people gathered outside the Northern Territory Parliament to protest against the decision announced by Chief Minister Michael Gunner on Tuesday.

The opponents yelled "shame, Gunner, shame", and called for the Chief Minister to come out and address the crowd.

However, Mr Gunner was in Kununurra attending a forum on northern development. ...

Federal Treasurer Scott Morrison denied the Federal Government had held the NT to ransom on fracking, in exchange for a bigger share of GST.

Federal politicians, including the Prime Minister, have not been shy about applying pressure on the NT to resume fracking. ...

<http://www.ntnews.com.au/news/northern-territory/vowles-says-some-indigenous-territorians-used-as-pawns-in-antifracking-campaign/news-story/df0888ac93bfac6ec436f6d44476299>

### Vowles says some indigenous Territorians used as 'pawns' in anti-fracking campaign

Hayley Sorensen, NT News, 19/04/2018

The Territory has helped the Federal

Government by removing its ban on fracking and now it's time the Commonwealth returned the favour.

The day he [announced he his fracking moratorium was no more](#), Chief Minister Michael Gunner wrote to Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull with a list of demands.

In the letter, sent on Tuesday, Mr Gunner urged Mr Turnbull to match his Government's 10 year \$1.1 billion remote housing program. ...

Mr Gunner also asked Mr Turnbull to match funding for the recommendations of the youth justice royal commission, to finalise the Darwin City Deal and to match its contribution to a planned regional royalties fund.

But NT Resources Minister Ken Vowles said the relationship between the NT and the Commonwealth "hadn't been ideal".

Mr Vowles, who is the only indigenous Cabinet member, also said Aboriginal Territorians had been used as pawns by some anti-fracking groups. ...

Mr Vowles said many remote Aboriginal Territorians wrongly believed they had no rights to stop fracking on traditional lands.

"Under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act, you have absolute veto power over any explorations, any mining on your land," Mr Vowles said. ...

<http://www.ntnews.com.au/news/northern-territory/anti-frackers-protest-industry-green-light-outside-parliament/news-story/b5036eab07fd7466c55eae3f7f308ac7>

### Anti-frackers protest industry green light outside Parliament

Jason Walls, NT News, 18/04/2018

Shouts of "shame" and "frack off" echoed around the Parliament House forecourt on Wednesday as anti-fracking protesters voiced their opposition to the Territory Government's decision to green-light the industry.

Lock the Gate's Pauline Cass said the group was there to make their voices heard, saying Justice Rachel Pepper's 135 recommendations would "not guarantee the safety of our water".

"You can't regulate against accidents and the Pepper Inquiry has never given us any guarantees, it only mitigates the risks, it doesn't eliminate the risks," she said. ...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-19/nt-fracking-origin-energy-says-hiring-local-workers-a-priority/9674702>

### NT fracking: Origin Energy says hiring local workers is a priority for Beetaloo Basin project

ABC, 19/04/2018

Origin Energy says it will focus on hiring local staff, instead of fly-in-fly-out workers, when it resumes fracking in the Northern Territory's Beetaloo Basin. ...

The scale of the project and volume of gas will be assessed over the next two to three years, Origin unconventional exploration manager David Close told NT Country Hour. ...

Federal Minister for Resources and Northern Development Matt Canavan recently said there was American and Japanese interest in gas there, and that there could be oil in the Beetaloo.

Hundreds of protesters descended on NT Parliament House on Wednesday, with many saying they felt betrayed by the Government which took the moratorium on fracking to the last election. ...

Last year, Origin's own environmental report for 10,000 square kilometres of the Beetaloo Basin warned drilling [could pose a risk of causing aquifers under some properties to leak into each other](#), and potential exists for the deterioration in groundwater quality, which could impact existing groundwater users. ...

<http://www.alicespringsnews.com.au/2018/04/18/new-energy-for-anti-fracking-campaign/>

### New energy for anti fracking campaign

Erwin Chlanda, Alice Springs News, 18/04/2018

The battle against fracking is just beginning, says Jimmy Cocking, of the Arid Lands Environment Centre, after a rally attended by about 300 people in Todd Mall at noon today.

"Non violent resistance" is likely to be applied by people in the "direct line of fire" – but always as the initiative of the locals on whose land fracking is taking place.

Mr Cocking says this is likely to be first in the Beetaloo Basin at Elliott, north of Tennant Creek, where mining companies had already obtained statutory environmental approvals before the moratorium lifted by the NT Government yesterday was imposed. ...

**06 NEWS** THURSDAY APRIL 19 2018

**FRACKING the Territory**

## Former chief's appeals warning

**Protesters tell Gunner to crack off**

**Decision splits Katherine region**

**Water price fight looming**

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**The NT News ran a week-long 'fracking frenzy' with little critical examination of the industry.**

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<http://www.ntnews.com.au/news/northern-territory/fears-that-fracking-decision-may-lead-to-water-bidding-war/news-story/e9714f0d175b06682ab2e2105b35e549>

### Fears that fracking decision may lead to water bidding war

Ashley Manicaros, NT News, 19/04/2018

Putting a price on water for one industry could have unintended consequences including starting bidding wars disadvantaging the NT's agricultural sector, the Chief Minister warns. The Gunner Government, in accepting all 135 recommendations from the Pepper Inquiry, will charge the onshore gas industry for water.

The industry could use up to 20 million litres of water for one hydraulically fractured well.

The Government has accepted the recommendation "in principle" subject to further analysis including "how water allocations, licencing, consumption and use may be affected."

Mr Gunner fears water license holders, when given a choice between selling to a pastoralist or a gas company, will choose the highest bidder. ...

Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association NT director Matt Doman said the decision to charge for water was an "odd one".

"We are not a big user of water but the pastoral and agricultural industries that use significantly more water than we do won't face a charge so you think it is an issue of equity and balance between industries," Mr Doman said. ...

<http://www.ntnews.com.au/news/northern-territory/centre-of-excellence-could-help-territorians-secure-onshore-gas-industry-jobs/news-story/96baf3f4f353e496720b87912fd4dec5>

### Centre of Excellence could help Territorians secure onshore gas industry jobs

Ashley Manicaros, NT News, 20/04/2018

The Chamber of Commerce NT is moving to establish a "Centre of Excellence" to ensure Territorians are job-ready in the wake of the Gunner Government's decision to allow the development of an onshore gas industry.

CCNT vice-president Stuart Kenny said the chamber had already held meetings with gas operators and Charles Darwin University to establish a pathway for young Territorians to move into the oil and gas industry. ...

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-column-russell-nat-gas-australia/to-track-or-not-to-track-australia-natural-gas-dilemma-russell-idUSKBN1HQ0P4>

### To track or not to track? Australia's natural gas dilemma: Russell

Clyde Russell, Reuters, 19/04/2018

The decision by the government of Australia's Northern Territory government to allow the resumption of fracking for natural gas will do little to immediately solve the country's energy woes, but will likely sharpen political battle lines. ...

Northern Territory is a vast, sparsely-populated 1.4 million square kilometre (540,000 square mile) part of central and northern Australia, and home to two potentially rich basins of natural gas. ...

The decision to permit fracking, subject to rigorous regulation, came as a surprise to many observers, given the

## News this week ... from previous page

opposition of many Labor supporters to this method of natural gas production. ...

Any company engaged in fracking in Australia can expect to be targeted by activists, which may deter some oil and gas companies, given they have become increasingly publicity shy. ...

<https://www.realestate.com.au/news/fracking-to-boost-darwins-housing-market/?rsf=syn.news:nc:ntn:article>

### Fracking to boost Darwin's housing market

*NewsCorp, NT News, 21/04/2018*

The Territory Government's decision to give fracking the go-ahead will greatly benefit Darwin's property market, real estate professionals say. ...

While the move to green light the

controversial practice may not have any immediate effects on the industry, experts believe fracking will help boost the housing sector through driving population growth.

REINT chief executive Quentin Kilian said fracking would stimulate business activity in the medium to long-term future, in turn attracting people to the Territory. ...

From an economic standpoint, Raine and Horne Darwin general manager Glenn Grantham felt the fracking decision was the biggest announcement for real estate since the Inpex signing.

"Housing prices have already started to increase on the boom cycle, but an outside stimulant like fracking will assist with more growth that's for sure," he said. ...

**FFB**



**A short educational film on the shale gas rush in the Northern Territory**

Featuring Eddie Mason and Heleana Gulwa from Protect Arnhem Land, Gadrion Hoosan, Nancy McDinny and Asman Rory from Borroloola in the South West Gulf of Carpentaria, Daniel and Shannon Tapp from Big River Station in the Roper and Marjorie Braedon from Wattarka Kings Canyon.

Produced by Lauren Mellor and Boudicca Cerase edited by Cloudcatcher Media for Lock the Gate Alliance, 2015.

<https://vimeo.com/122897319/description>

### Interview: CSG on the Darling Downs

Karen Auty talks about the CSG water that goes into the Chinchilla drinking water supply, the health impacts on gasfield residents, the visits by politicians and government reps who then do nothing to help, the buyouts, the make good agreements, the industry and its private health service plus more.

**Recommended listening!**

<https://soundcloud.com/nwpa/karen-auty-interview-150318-in-chinchilla>

## NT rewarded with GST cash splash

Questions linger over how much pressure the Federal government applied to overturn the Northern Territory's fracking moratorium.

On Monday (April 23) Treasurer Scott Morrison appeared in Alice Springs to announce a \$259 million in new funding from the nation's GST carve-up.

The *NT News* said, "Senior Federal government sources said the Chief Minister and [Treasurer] Ms Manison were given an ultimatum this month; lift the moratorium or kiss goodbye to any extra GST funding.

"But Mr Gunner denied his hand was forced by the commonwealth." The Gunner government says it was acting solely on the fracking inquiry report from Justice Pepper.

## SACRIFICE ZONE

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



<https://vimeo.com/257444267>



## Fiona Wilson fundraiser

Gas industry whistleblower Fiona Wilson is still battling her incarceration and forced medication by Queensland's Fixated Persons Unit.

Fiona's story was told in FFB1.2 and FFB1.13.

She needs to fund about \$30,000 in legal costs.

If you can help, click the link below:

<https://www.gofundme.com/barrister-needed-for-fiona-wilson>

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

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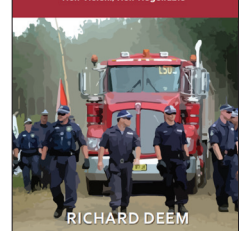
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