



# 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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## Debunked: report exposes myth of gas as a clean transition fuel

By Matt Maiorana & FFB

*A new report report, 'Debunked: The G20 Clean Gas Myth' focuses on fossil gas development in the G20 and debunking the myth of fossil gas as a clean transition fuel. The report finds that the concept of fossil gas as a "bridge fuel" to a stable climate is a myth. Emissions from existing gas fields, alongside existing oil and coal development, already exceed carbon budgets aligned with the Paris Agreement.*

Even if all coal mines were shut down tomorrow, the gas and oil in already-developed fields alone would take the world beyond the carbon budget for a 50% chance at staying below 1.5°C of global warming.

Despite this reality, G20 countries are projected to host investment of over US\$1.6 trillion in new gas projects by 2030. If this happens, emissions unlocked through 2050 would make it extremely difficult to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement, which has been signed by all G20 members.

### Australia among top five offenders

Five countries – the United States, Russia, Australia, China, and Canada – are projected to be responsible for 75% of capital expenditures in gas production in G20 countries from 2018-2030.

As shale gas production has grown – enabled by the development of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) and horizontal drilling – much of the controversy over whether increased fossil gas produc-

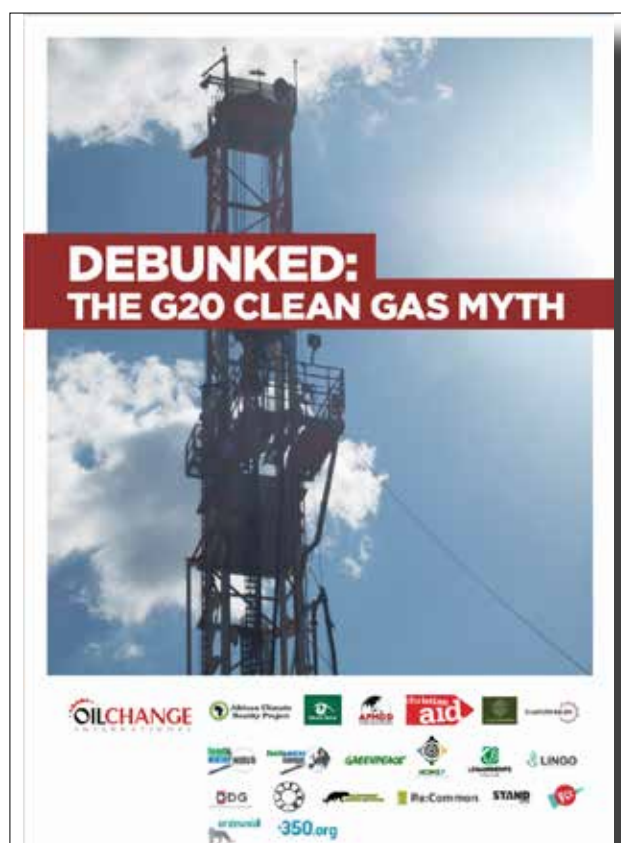
tion and consumption can deliver a transition to a cleaner energy system has centred around the issue of methane leakage. Methane, the primary hydrocarbon contained in fossil gas, is a highly potent greenhouse gas (GHG) when vented or leaked to the atmosphere.

Studies have found that methane leakage levels can be much higher for gas produced via fracking than for conventionally produced gas. If elevated levels of methane are leaked in the process of producing and delivering fossil gas to consumers, then its emissions advantage over coal for power generation or other uses is reduced or negated, and the bridge fuel idea is mistaken.

### LNG export: Making a bad problem worse

Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) is fossil gas that is cooled to -162 degrees to reduce volume and facilitate shipping across oceans. On arrival the liquefied gas is generally regasified to be further transported by pipeline to its final destination.

As might be expected, this intense process requires a lot of energy. Electricity and fossil gas are generally used



to power the plants that chill the gas into LNG. Where fossil gas is used, it is estimated that six to ten percent of the gas processed is required for powering the plant. There is also energy required for shipping and regasification. So, the LNG process adds a significant amount to the full lifecycle emissions of producing and using fossil gas.

If methane leakage is not kept at very low levels – well below 2 percent,

• Continued p2

• P 2: Adani wants 10bn litres of water

• P 3: Govt reports that mining dries out Hunter

• P 4: Inside the news

## Debunked: dangerous transitional fuel myth

• Continued from p1

depending on shipping distance and other factors – replacing coal with LNG may result in increased GHG emissions.

### New gas locks in emissions

The problem with building a lot of new fossil gas capacity is that the companies investing in gas infrastructure expect to operate their plants for decades to come. Power plants and related infrastructure like pipelines and LNG terminals are multibillion-dollar investments that require decades of operation to turn a profit. Nobody investing today expects to retire the infrastructure earlier than 30 years into its lifetime at minimum, while many power plants operate for much longer. This means that gas plants built over the next few years could still be operating beyond 2050, when emissions from the power sector must be nearing zero.

The myth of fossil gas as a “bridge” to a stable climate does not stand up to scrutiny. While much of the debate to date has focused on methane leakage, the data shows that the GHG emissions just from burning the fossil gas itself are enough to overshoot climate goals.

We must reduce fossil gas combustion rather than increase it, and the fact that methane leakage will never be reduced to zero only makes this task more urgent.

This report is one of two published simultaneously that question the ongoing push for expanding fossil gas production in G20 countries.

It was produced by: Oil Change International in collaboration with African Climate Reality Project, Amazon Watch, Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt & Development, Christian Aid, Earthworks, Engajamundo, Food & Water Europe, Food & Water Watch, Greenpeace, Health of Mother Earth Foundation, Leave it in the Ground Initiative, Legambiente, Observatori del Deute en la Globalització, Platform, Rainforest Action Network, Re:Common, Stand.earth, UK Youth Climate Coalition, urgewald, and 350.org.

The report can be downloaded here:

<http://priceofoil.org/2018/06/11/debunked-g20-clean-gas-myth/>

The partner report, 'Debunked: The Promise of Argentina's Vaca Muerta Shale Play,' is available at:

<http://priceofoil.org/debunked-vaca-muerta>

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## Adani: 10 billion litres of Suttor River water up for grabs, no EIS



**Plans by Adani to avoid a full Federal environmental impact assessment of their plans to take 10 billion litres of river water in Central Queensland are dangerous, and undermine Federal environment laws.**

Adani recently submitted a referral under the Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 for the North Galilee Water Scheme which will extract 10 billion litres of water from the Suttor River to run the Carmichael coal mine.

In its referral, Adani claims that the scheme is not captured by the Federal water trigger and says that it is not a controlled action, which means it would not require an Environmental Impact Statement.

Carmel Flint, spokesperson for Lock the Gate Alliance said “Adani is trying to sneak through a massive 10 billion litre water scheme, including a dam and pipeline, without a full environmental impact assessment under Federal environment laws.

“If the Federal Minister approves this, it will be yet another special deal for Adani that hangs Queensland farmers, local communities and the environment out to dry, at a time when most

of the surrounding region of Central Queensland is in drought.

“Adani are saying this take of water is not part of a large scale coal mining project, which is absurd, and should be slapped down by the Federal Environment Minister who should demand a full environmental impact statement.

### Federal water trigger undermined

“This move by Adani will also undermine the Federal water trigger and allow other mining companies to follow suit and take and use river water without proper Federal environment assessment.

“This is yet another example of Adani making things up as they go along - they got approval for a huge coal mine without knowing where they were going to get their water from, and are now trying to push through their water plan without any transparency.

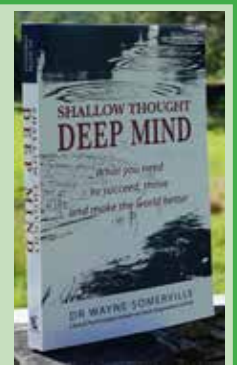
“Adani is also suggesting that it will make water available to other Galilee Basin coal mines from the scheme in the future, which suggests that they might triple the amount of water taken - all without any proper assessment or public consultation” she said.

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**Dr Wayne Somerville is well known in the Northern Rivers, NSW, for his involvement with the Bentley Blockade.**

**His new book, *Shallow Thought, Deep Mind: What you need to succeed, thrive and make the world better*, is for everyone who takes on life's challenges and dreams of brighter tomorrows.**

**The book can be purchased from website [www.drwaynesomerville.com](http://www.drwaynesomerville.com) for \$24.99 which includes postage anywhere in Australia and GST. The e-book version is available on Amazon. An audio book is coming.**



# Government report: massive water drawdown from mining could affect up to 30% of the Hunter region

*The Commonwealth government has released its Hunter Bioregional Assessment, revealing that 25% of the Hunter could already have been affected by groundwater drawdown caused by mining.*

Another 5% of the region is likely to be affected if proposed new mines proceed.

The report also indicates that there has been impacts on river systems, particularly in the Goulburn River catchment, and reveal the extensive impact that the Bylong coal mine would have on groundwater if it was approved.

Lock the Gate Alliance spokesperson Georgina Woods said, "This report shows that a massive area of the Hunter Valley is experiencing negative impacts from coal mining with almost 25% of the region potentially already affected by groundwater drawdown from mining.

"This represents a risk to agriculture in the region, and is even more concerning during a drought like the one we are experiencing at present when farmers are under pressure already and reliant on groundwater.

## New mines, expansions proposed

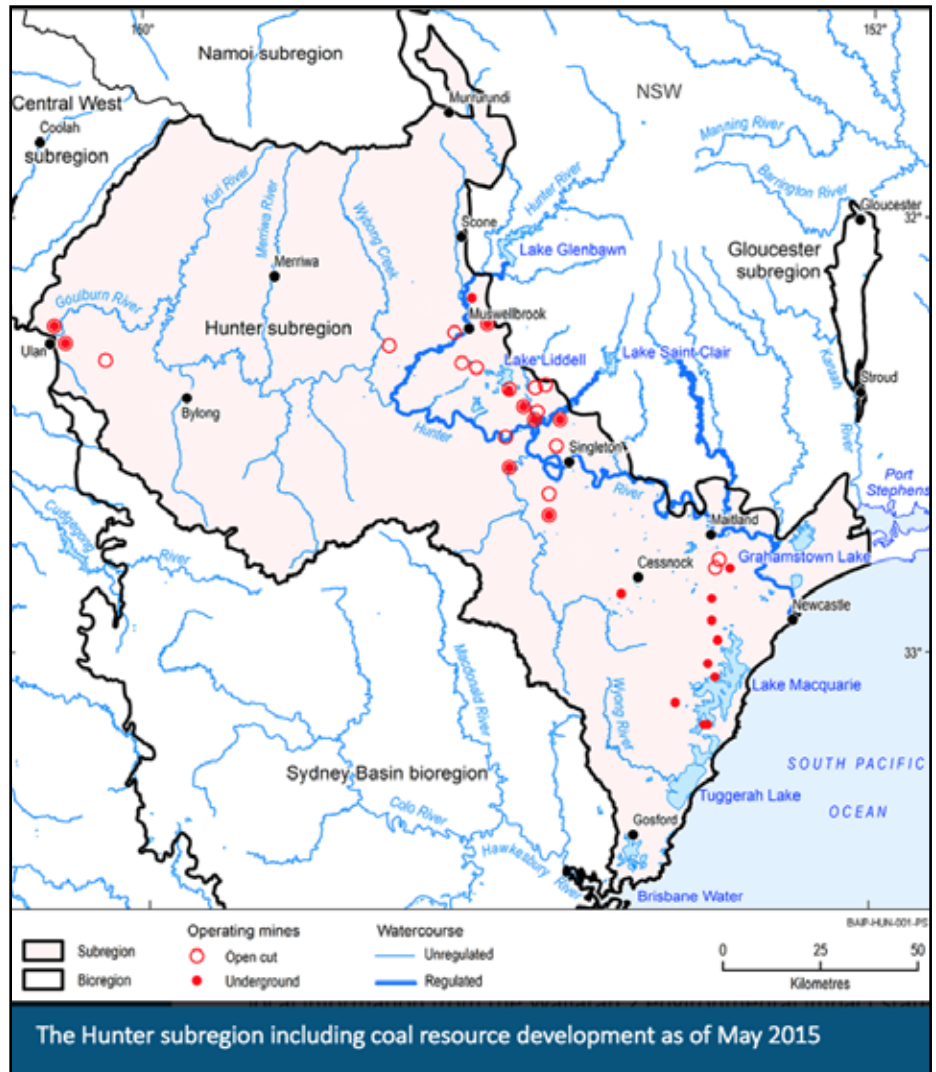
"The report shows that the 17 proposed new mines and expansions in the region will only make things worse for our groundwater, with water losses expected in the Singleton, Muswellbrook and Jerry's water sources."

The Bioregional Assessment reveals that the groundwater drawdown from the Bylong coal mine will effect an area close to 500 square kilometres, more than a quarter of which is in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage area.

"The Assessment reveals more extensive impacts from the proposed Bylong coal mine on water resources, with predicted impacts on the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

"After recent freedom of information documents revealed that the mine is likely to cause the Bylong River to dry up, now we find that it may also affect groundwater in the World Heritage Area.

"It's obvious that coal mining should



never be allowed in the Bylong Valley and we're calling on the NSW Government to acknowledge this new information and reject the mine."

## Highlights from the report

Modelling undertaken for the bioregional assessment in the Hunter subregion includes 68 mining operations comprising 41 baseline mines and 17 additional coal resource developments. Several new or expanded mine proposals like United Wambo were not included. Results indicate:

- There is considerable hydrological impact from extensive mining in the region. The extent of groundwater drawdown of over 0.2m from existing mining could extend to 4,307km<sup>2</sup> – or 25% of the study area. This would increase to 5,129km<sup>2</sup> or 30% as a result of the expanded mining.

- Drawdown of greater than 0.2m is

very likely (greater than 95% chance) to occur at distances of 5km from mine sites.

- Water losses are expected in the Singleton, Muswellbrook and Jerry's water sources. In the Singleton source, there's a 50% chance of 4.5GL loss of flow, which is 24% of the annual flow of that water source. (see Table 37 "Impact and risk analysis").

- Groundwater drawdown predictions indicate that an area of 494km<sup>2</sup> will be affected by drawdown as a result of the proposed Bylong mine, 137km<sup>2</sup> of which is in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Up to 12% of the affected area of the Bylong coal mine could see groundwater drawdown of greater than 5m.

See more at:

<http://www.bioregionalassessments.gov.au/assessments/hunter-subregion>

## Gasfield free surveys cover 101 communities, 3.2 million hectares, saying no to CSG



More than 150 residents in the Dandry region, north of Coonabarabran, have responded to a recent gasfield free survey, with 90.3 per cent of landholders voting to protect their land from coal seam gas (CSG) exploration.

As the Dandry area encompasses more than 84,000 hectares, the survey process was lengthy.

Coonabarabran Residents Against CSG spokesperson, Peter Small, said the survey area was broken up into three groups to make it easier for coordinators to get organised.

"It's a lot of area to cover, and every attempt to contact all landholders was made, even leaving letters on locked gates and call back times to meet," Mr Small said.

"It was no surprise, really, how open people were to discussion on the subject of CSG and gasfields being drilled on their land.

"Clearly, most people are aware of the issues associated with the gas industry, also that our region has a gas licence still open for drilling to commence if the Narrabri Gas Project comes online.

The gasfield free survey is not a new concept in the Warrumbungle Shire, with the Bugaldie community surveyed in 2017.

Following the first community-run gasfield free survey on the North Coast in 2012, more than 3.28 million hectares and 101 communities have been surveyed.

Mr Small said the results revealed a massively high number of landholders opposed the invasive gas industry.

"Dandry is now one of many regional NSW communities who are now standing together, with the strength of their democratic decision, knowing that the whole region is overwhelmingly united against the threat to our farmland, our bushland, our water and our communities," he said.

"This ever-growing survey is continuing to put political pressure on the Nationals to support their constituents to stop CSG in the Pilliga and work for a CSG ban across the state.

"The ALP has already given an undertaking that, if elected in 2019, they will not give Santos a production licence for the Pilliga project." (*Coonabarabran Times* 14/06/2018)

## Inside the news

The great **gas import farce** continues, with both **AGL** (Crib Point) and **Twiggy Forrest's AIE** (Port Kembla) talking up their plans (p7-9).

Even the **Murdoch** press has noticed that the projects will rely on the destruction of the government's domestic reservation scheme for their profits. We can expect **higher** gas and electricity **prices** as a result.



Meanwhile the **fossil fuel** industry and its government cronies are launching a full-on **anti-greenie assault** (p10).

The *Courier-Mail* indulged half a dozen mining bosses with an airing of their whinges about 'lying greenies' and '**tofu tyrants**' killing their industry.

They appear to think **vegans** in Brisbane's West End are holding up the industry. CSG pioneer and former QGC boss **Richard Cottee**, blinded by the 'tofu curtain', should think again. His most ardent opponents are **meat-eating, horse-riding, tractor-driving farmers** who know that co-existence with mining is a myth.

The Coalition's fossil **Monash Forum** plunged into the foray, saying they will be campaigning for no less than **four new coal-fired power stations** to be built. Expect advertisements, flyers and media coverageseeking to trump 'doomsayers'.

However, a gathering of fossil fuel **executives** at the Vatican, on the third anniversary of **Pope Francis' Laudado Si** encyclical on global warming, got a pointed message. The Pope **chastised** them for continuing the search for more fuel reserves (p11).

## Nannas knit-in outside Santos Brisbane HQ

*Knitting Nannas Against Gas from the Gold Coast (Qld) Drake, Lismore, Eltham, and Boatharbour (NSW), made one of their regular trips to Brisbane last week. "Let's stop CSG together," they said. A couple of Santos security guards checked them out, but the Nannas kept calm and made an impression on passers-by.*

Photo: Facebook



# In the news this week:

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 19,000 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

## THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/jun/11/anti-adani-protesters-target-construction-firm-wagners-over-30m-contract>

### Anti-Adani protesters target construction firm Wagners over \$30m contract

Ben Smees, *The Guardian*, 11/06/2018

Anti-Adani activists say they have launched an escalating disruption campaign against Queensland construction company Wagners, which is being targeted over a \$30m contract to build an airstrip for the Carmichael Coalmine.

Members of the group Galilee Blockade entered a Wagners industrial site at Pinkenba near the Port of Brisbane on Sunday afternoon, dressed as superheroes, as a precursor to further protests.

Wagners has the contract to build the airport, in total worth about \$30m. The activists say the financial cost of their disruption campaign would quickly cancel out any profit Wagners would make from the Adani contract.

<https://www.echo.net.au/2018/06/efic-fail-adani-sup-port-creates-legal-political-risks/>

### EFIC fail: Adani support creates legal & political risks

David Barnden, *Byron Echo*, 12/06/2018

A new report by Environmental Justice Australia finds that if Australia's export credit agency, EFIC, funds Adani's controversial Carmichael coal mine, it would expose its directors to significant legal and political risk.

The Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (EFIC) has regularly met Adani and reportedly decided to provide concessional support to a company in Adani's supply chain.

EFIC told Senate Estimates on June 1 that the relevant transaction was not proceeding 'at the moment'. ...

• *David Barnden is a senior lawyer at Environmental Justice Australia. This article was first published by RenewEconomy.*



Galilee Blockaders entered a Wagners industrial site at Pinkenba, near the Port of Brisbane last week, dressed as superheroes. Photo: Galilee Blockade

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/adani-shuns-water-trigger-despite-drought-20180612-p4zgz1.html>

### Adani shuns water trigger despite drought

Nicole Hasham, *SMH*, 13/06/2018

Indian mining giant Adani is seeking to dodge federal scrutiny of its plan to build a pipeline pumping billions of litres of water from a river in drought-stricken central Queensland to feed its Carmichael mega-mine. ...

In a plan being evaluated by federal environment authorities, Adani wants to build a 61 kilometre pipeline to pump up to 12.5 billion litres of water a year from the Suttor River to the mine.

The project, known as the North Galilee Water Scheme, could also provide water to "other resource extraction projects" in the region such as the China Stone coal project, Adani says. ...

Large coal mines require federal approval if they are likely to have a significant impact on a water resource. This is known as the water trigger.

The documents show Adani claims the water trigger applies only to water used in the extraction of coal, and the pipeline plan is not captured because the water to be pumped "is not part of the extraction process". ...

If the federal government was to

activate the water trigger, the pipeline would undergo a higher level of scrutiny than that applied by local and state assessments, including input from an independent expert scientific committee.

Labor environment spokesman Tony Burke said Adani's claim the project did not qualify for the water trigger appeared illogical. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/state-politics/queensland-budget-cold-water-poured-on-adani-revenue-boost/news-story/b1cd9a4028d5aaf17424e4151c141e45>

### Queensland budget: cold water poured on Adani revenue boost

Mark Schliebs, *The Australian*, 13/06/2018

The Queensland government has sought to temper expectations over Adani's proposed \$16.5 billion Carmichael coal project, after suggestions in the previous budget that economic growth rates and state revenue would rise if it went ahead.

Treasurer Jackie Trad spoke about the pipeline of renewable energy projects when asked yesterday about the mine, following the government's withdrawal of support for a federal loan for the project during last year's election campaign.

"We need all industries to play their role," Ms Trad said. "It's not just one

company, we've got many projects in the pipeline — whether they're resource companies, whether they're renewable energy companies. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/business/adani-cuts-townsville-workforce-but-commits-to-carmichael-project/news-story/0485e6136b361f194c41ee2b0c626117>

### Adani cuts Townsville workforce but commits to Carmichael project

*Tony Raggatt, Townsville Bulletin, 03/06/2018*

The number of people working at Adani's Townsville offices has continued to fall just as coal prices recover to a point where its Galilee Basin project could be viable.

Adani established the headquarters for its Carmichael coal project in Townsville last year.

About 150 people have been working at the offices, planning the mine site and rail corridor, but those numbers have now been reduced to about 100.

It is understood about 15 people were told their contracts would expire at the end of the month or they were no longer required. ...

Meanwhile, development authority Townsville Enterprise is continuing to advocate for opening the Galilee. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville-city-council-redirects-cash-earmarked-for-adani-airport/news-story/08f72d22a6c1c42b996784c715f13144>

### Townsville City Council redirects cash earmarked for Adani airport

*Tony Raggatt, Townsville Bulletin, 16/06/2018*

Townsville City Council is redirecting \$18.5 million earmarked for Adani's Carmichael coal mine airport to shovel-ready projects around the city.

Mayor Jenny Hill announced the move yesterday, saying that while she fully supports the mine, its continued delays mean the money will be invested in projects here. ...

[Ms Hill said] "I've made it clear to Adani that should the company secure finance and is ready to start mining then council will be back at the table to ensure those FIFO jobs remain in Townsville."

## COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5456285/not-satisfied-regulator-refuses-to-lift-prohibition-order-on-austar-coal-mine/?cs=305>

### Yancoal has started legal action after questions about worker safety at troubled Hunter mine

*Joanne McCarthy, Newcastle Herald, 09/06/2018*

Yancoal's troubled Austar underground coking coal mine is facing an uncertain future after the Resources Regulator said it was "not satisfied" workers were safe following repeated coal burst events in 2018 similar to an incident that killed two Austar mine workers in 2014.

Some Austar employees have been redeployed to other Yancoal Hunter sites in the past two weeks after the Regulator prohibited all underground longwall mining at the Paxton mine from May 18 after coal bursts in an area newly approved for mining. Yancoal is challenging the regulator's action in court. ...

<http://www.latrobevalleyexpress.com.au/story/5468300/dry-mine-a-fire-risk/>

### Dry mine a fire risk

*Heidi Kraak, Latrobe Valley Express, 14/06/2018*

A "whopping great hole" is not an acceptable option for the Hazelwood mine void but a lake was a reasonable outcome, an RMIT engineering expert says.

RMIT associate professor of environmental engineering Gavin Mudd said a dry scenario for the mine void could be a "perpetual bushfire risk".

His comments come after Latrobe City councillors voted to advocate retaining a section of the mine for future coal-winning with the remainder to be

made available for other uses.

Hazelwood mine owner ENGIE has stuck by plans to turn the mine into a full pit lake, citing safety concerns with a dry scenario. ...

## GAS, GAS, GAS

<https://www.katherinetimes.com.au/story/5458164/members-of-fracking-group-revealed/>

### Members of fracking group revealed

*Chris McLennan, Katherine Times, 10/06/2018*

The NT Government has revealed the members of its Onshore Shale Gas: Community and Business Reference Group. ...

It follows the appointment last month of Dr David Ritchie as the independent officer to oversee implementation of the 135 recommendations from the scientific inquiry into hydraulic fracturing. ...

The members are:

Denys Stedman (Chair) – Buy Local Advocate; Jimmy Cocking – Director, Arid Lands Environment Centre; Matt Doman – Director, SA and NT, Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association; Julie-Ann Stoll – Manager – Mining, Central Land Council; Greg Bicknell – Chief Executive Officer, Chamber of Commerce; Gillian Duggin – Principal Lawyer and Executive Officer, Environmental Defenders Office; Geoff Crowhurst – Chair, Katherine Mining Services Association; Fay Miller – Mayor, Katherine Town Council; Prof Alan Cass – Director, Menzies School of Health Research; Michael Bridge – Chairman, Tourism NT; Joe Morrison – Chief Executive Officer, Northern Land Council; Paul Burke – Chief Executive Officer, NT Cattleman's Association; Greg Owens – Chief Executive Officer, NT Farmers; David Ciaravolo – Executive Officer, Amateur Fisherman's Association of the NT; Damian Hale – Organiser, Australian Workers Union.

**Hazelwood Mine caught fire and burned out of control for 45 days in February 2014. It covered the homes of over 15,000 people in toxic coal ash for weeks and damaged the health of the local community. Photo: Environment Victoria**



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

<https://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/5463147/letter-to-the-editor-coal-seam-gas-debate-stuart-murray/>

## Coal seam gas debate

*Letter to the Editor, Stuart Murray, Northern Daily Leader, 12/06/2018*

I refer to the letter from Jack Warnock in the Courier May 31st, 2018 regarding SBS Television's Insight programme on the impacts of the CSG Industry on the community of our region.

As reported by Mr Warnock, the programme seemed set on highlighting divisions in the community, by seating the pro- and anti-CSG members of the audience on opposite sides of the room. ...

In fact, the weight is all on one side, and is against the project. As mentioned in the introduction to the programme, there were 23,000 submissions to the Santos Narrabri Gas project development application, making it the most protested project in NSW history. Over 22,000 objected to the project with only 296 submissions in favour. ...

During the programme Santos went to great pains to point out that they will not force people into agreeing to have CSG wells drilled on their property and would only do so if invited. Although this sounds good what Santos did not say was that this does not apply to other infrastructure such as pipelines, compressor stations, water treatment plants, gas processing plants, etc. The Santos commitment to not drill gas wells on a farmer's property unless invited is of little comfort, when by law landholders do not have the right to say no. ...

The group called "People for the Plains" P4P was criticised, Mr Warnock commenting that "the group was promoted as a forum for sharing information on the Gas Project. However, it became obvious that this was not the real objective, but rather a group that was determined to stop the Narrabri Gas Project at any cost and by any means."

It is true that, after considerable investigation, P4P concluded that the Narrabri Gas Project should not be approved ...

It is also true that People for the Plains is regarded as a critic of the CSG industry and has asked the hard questions, looking for answers to aspects of CSG that the industry does not want questioned. Our success can be judged by the smear campaign against P4P undertaken by out-of-town lobbyists

for the gas industry, and the attempts aimed at silencing us, by shutting down venues booked for public forums. ...

At other times we have been criticised for not presenting the benefits of the CSG industry. We see this as unnecessary as Santos will do this. ...

Another valid point which didn't come out in the final edit for the Insight programme was the inability of landholders to get insurance coverage against risks posed by the CSG industry to their businesses. If the world's greatest risk takers, insurance companies, won't provide insurance against these risks then why should communities and landholders have to?

Most people don't want the project to go ahead. In other words there is no social licence for CSG to proceed in this district. ...

[https://www.desmogblog.com/2018/06/07/new-transcanada-leach-xpress-pipeline-explodes-west-virginia?utm\\_source=dsb%20newsletter](https://www.desmogblog.com/2018/06/07/new-transcanada-leach-xpress-pipeline-explodes-west-virginia?utm_source=dsb%20newsletter)

## TransCanada's new 'Best-In-Class' gas pipeline explodes in West Virginia, causing fiery blast

*Sharon Kelly, DeSmog Blog, 07/06/2018*

This morning [June 7], residents of Marshall County, West Virginia, awoke at 4:15 a.m. to a major natural gas rupture and explosion on TransCanada's Leach XPress pipeline on Nixon Ridge — a quickly built pipeline only half a year old.

The fire was visible for miles, local TV news reported. Police warned anyone who could see the flames to evacuate — and the Emergen-

cy Management Agency director of neighboring Ohio County said officials had received dozens of 911 calls from locals able to see the fire, which was extinguished roughly four hours later. The blast was so powerful that one resident told a local CBS affiliate it felt like a tornado was passing through.

No one was injured, and no property damage was reported, TransCanada said in a statement, adding that the cause of the explosion was not yet determined. ...

Meanwhile, whistleblowers at numerous pipeline companies have raised red flags about the impacts of rushed construction — including TransCanada.

DeSmog has previously reported numerous concerns raised by former TransCanada engineer Evan Vokes about construction problems and cut corners ...

"TransCanada keeps insisting the Keystone XL pipeline will be the safest pipeline ever built despite irrefutable evidence to the contrary," Vokes [said]. "In fact they are building the southern portion of the Keystone XL to the lowest permissible standards, just as they have the Keystone 1 and the Bison Pipeline." ...

## IMPORT FARCE

<https://thewest.com.au/business/markets/agl-strikes-deals-for-lng-import-jetty-ng-s-1867029>

### AGL strikes deals for LNG import jetty

*Lilly Vitorovich, AAP/West Australian, 12/06/2018*

AGL Energy has struck several deals for its proposed liquefied natural gas

*If you can see the flames - evacuate! The TransCanada pipeline in West Virginia exploded just six months after completion. Photo: DeSmog Blog*



import jetty at Crib Point in Victoria, which could help deliver more gas to Victoria and South Australia.

The energy company has signed development and gas transportation agreements with APA Group and works, lease and berthing and jetty agreements with the Port of Hastings Development Authority. ...

The company on Tuesday said it was still working through processes with key commercial and stakeholders before making a final investment decision on the Crib Point LNG Import Jetty in the 2018/19 financial year. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/the-economy/apa-to-build-pipelines-for-agl-s-victorian-gas-import-terminal-20180612-p4zkwp.html>

**APA to build pipelines for AGL's Victorian gas import terminal**

*Cole Latimer, SMH, 12/06/2018*

AGL has struck two deals to support its proposed Crib Point floating gas import terminal in Victoria, which it says will help address the state's looming gas crisis.

APA on Tuesday agreed to build the gas transport pipelines while AGL also signed agreements with the Port of Hastings for the long-term use of a berth at the Crib Point jetty. ...

Under the project, APA will build about 60 kilometres of new pipeline capable of transporting about 500 terajoules of gas a day. The cost of the pipeline is believed to be between \$160 million and \$200 million, while AGL's terminal has been forecast to cost about \$250 million. ...

AGL's general manager for energy supply and origination, Phaedra Deckart, said ... the company had been looking at importing new floating regasification units from Asia or Europe and was already in negotiations.

Despite surging ahead with the project, there are still a number of approvals AGL must receive before it begins importing gas. ...

One of the main hurdles for the project is its location close to national maritime parks. ...

Environmental group Save Western Port warned of the project's impact to the Western Port wetlands and nearby homes.

"It's totally inappropriate for it to be that close to residences, bushland and adjacent to protected wetlands, other floating import facilities - like that proposed at Port Kembla in NSW - are

in industrial areas," Save Western Port spokeswoman Louise Page said. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/agl-a-step-closer-to-gas-import-terminal/news-story/ca2ea434b32bd0fb07ab1dee640d7a>

**AGL a step closer to gas import terminal**

*Andrew White & Matt Chambers, The Australian, 13/06/2018*

AGL Energy is a step closer to building a gas import terminal in Victoria after signing agreements with APA Group to build a pipeline that would deliver the fuel into the east coast gas network.

The signing of development and gas transportation agreements with APA will see AGL's spending commitments on the project rise by \$65 million to \$102m ahead of a string of final approvals, including from its board, to proceed with the project.

AGL said the project would cost \$250m in total, with first gas to be delivered in 2021. ...

AGL said the floating regasification plant it planned to lease for the project would be capable of handling up to 100 petajoules of gas a year but was being costed based on 40PJ, which equated to 12-40 ships. ...

<https://www.macrobusiness.com.au/2018/06/east-coast-gas-farce-doubles/>

**East coast gas farce doubles**

*Macrobusiness, 12/06/2018*

Yes, somehow the farce has doubled in just a few days. Last week it was Twigg-Forrest importing gas to NSW. Now it's AGL to Victoria. ...

Why would AGL import gas to Aus-

tralia given that shortage has driven electricity prices so wild that the AGL share price has been transformed from a staid utility to tearaway growth stock?

I'll tell you why. It knows that importing LNG will keep the local gas price high - and therefore electricity prices high - so it is insuring its rentier profits. ...

AGL and Twigg-Forrest are betting on, and ensuring, the destruction of the east coast domestic reservation regime.

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/import-push-25-years-after-massive-export-deal-either-complete-mismanagement-or-plot-to-increase-prices/news-story/980397ba6a2c56d221fc05a659504249>

**Import push 2.5 years after massive export deal 'either complete mismanagement or ploy to increase prices'**

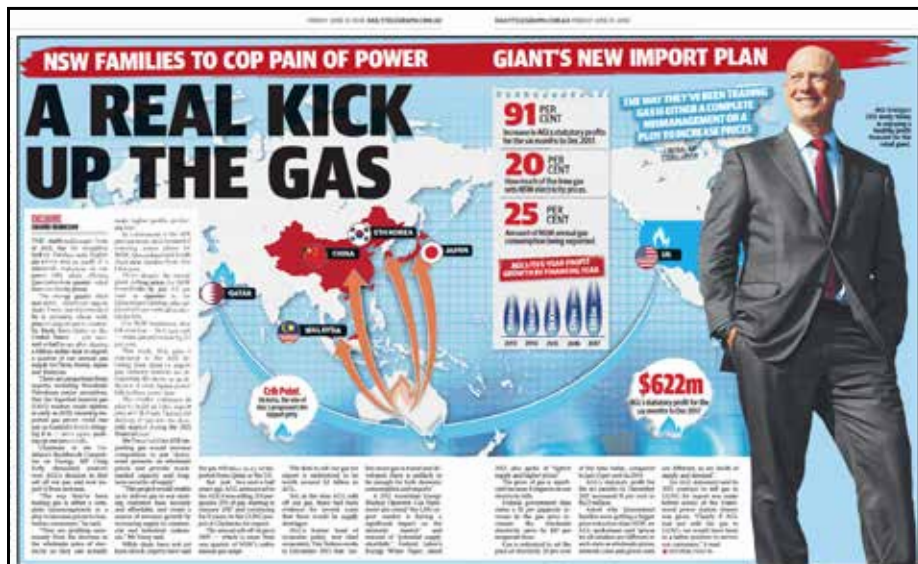
*Sharri Markson, Daily Telegraph, 15/06/2018*

The multi-millionaire boss of AGL has hit struggling Sydney families with higher gas prices and an insult of a minuscule reduction on our power bills while offering Queenslanders greater relief from electricity prices. ...

The energy giant's chief executive, American import Andy Vesey, has also revealed he is pressing ahead with plans to import gas to Australia, likely from Qatar or the United States - just two-and-a-half years after signing a billion-dollar deal to export a quarter of our annual gas supply to China, Korea, Japan and Malaysia. ...

Chairman of the Coalition's Backbench Committee on Energy, MP Craig Kelly, demanded answers over AGL's deci-

*Even the Tele can spot a bad deal when they see one so blatant as gas import plans for Australia's east coast!*





sion to first sell off our gas, and now import it from overseas.

“The way they’ve been trading gas is either a complete mismanagement or a ploy to increase prices to Australian consumers,” he said. ...

## FOSSIL POLITICS

[https://www.themandarin.com.au/93844-new-zealands-productivity-commission-charts-course-to-low-emission-future/?utm\\_campaign=Thejuice&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=newsletter](https://www.themandarin.com.au/93844-new-zealands-productivity-commission-charts-course-to-low-emission-future/?utm_campaign=Thejuice&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter)

### New Zealand’s productivity commission charts course to low-emission future

Robert McLachlan, *The Mandarin*, 06/06/2018

New Zealand has set itself a target of becoming carbon-neutral by 2050.

A recent report issued by the New Zealand Productivity Commission has found that this is an achievable goal, even under modest forecasts of technological progress and increases in carbon price.

New Zealand already had a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 50% below 1990 levels by 2050. That target had been in place since 2002, but emissions continued to rise through the 2000s. ...

The 500-page report, now available in draft form, is a huge and comprehensive piece of work. From the very beginning, the commission knew what they were up against, writing that:

...the shift from the old economy to a new, low-emissions, economy will be profound and widespread, transforming land use, the energy system, production methods and technology, regulatory frameworks and institutions, and business and political culture. ...

Although the report covers all main aspects of society and economy, there are three big changes that stand out:

Transport must be electrified rapidly (in some models, nearly all light vehicles entering the fleet must be zero-emission by the early 2030s)

Huge numbers of trees – up to an extra 2.8 million hectares, tripling the current plantation estate – must be planted to absorb carbon dioxide. These trees have to go somewhere, probably on sheep and beef farms

A lot of new renewable electricity generation will be needed, nearly doubling the present capacity, which is already 85% renewable. ...

<https://www.afr.com/opinion/columnists/neoliberalism-is-dead-and-the-australian-political-right-killed-it-20180611-h118m>

### Neo-liberalism is dead and the Australian political right killed it

Richard Denniss, *AFR*, 12/06/2018

If Malcolm Turnbull were serious about cutting the company tax rate he would simply push for a carbon tax to fund it.

If the Greens didn’t support him, Labor almost certainly would. In one fell swoop he’d deliver the tax cuts he says we need, the carbon price he knows we need, plus leave the budget, and the public’s faith in our democracy, in a much better place. But he won’t.

The Business Council of Australia won’t push for such a simple set of self-funding reforms for the simple reason that the right of Australian politics is more concerned with politics than it is with policy. While a carbon tax is good for the climate and good for the economy, it is opposed by a small number of powerful players in the resource sector and the parliament. ...

Indeed, while the Coalition are often described as “free marketeers” who support “small government” the facts suggest otherwise. Minister for Resources Matt Canavan wants to subsidise coal mines. Tony Abbott wants to nationalise power stations and Malcolm Turnbull wants the government to build Snowy 2.0. The Coalition are united in their desire to intervene in markets, they just can’t agree on when.

Neo-liberalism is dead in Australia, it was killed by the political right and the business community who couldn’t resist the desire to subsidise their friends and tie their opponents up in the red tape they claim to despise. When it comes to unions, charities and the renewable energy industry it seems too much regulation is never enough for the modern right. ...

In Australia today appeasing the coal industry and the conservative climate sceptics is a more pressing problem than tackling climate change and cutting the company tax rate.

• *Richard Denniss is chief economist at The Australia Institute.*

<https://www.michaelwest.com.au/apa-why-do-foreign-energy-giants-covet-australian-assets-were-a-soft-touch/>

### APA: why do foreign energy giants covet Australian assets? We’re a soft touch

Bruce Robertson, *MichaelWest.com* 13/06/2018

Unless it wants gas prices to shoot up, and Australia’s monopoly pipeline op-

erator to be controlled by a Hong Kong billionaire via the Cayman Islands who is not keen on paying tax, the government would be mad to give the green light to this \$13 billion APA takeover.

Asian billionaire, Li Ka-shing, moved on Duet Group two years ago in a \$7.4 billion play for even more of Australia’s energy assets. Via 51 per cent of Victoria power companies CitiPower and Powercor and South Australia’s ETSA Utilities, he already had his foot on a huge chunk of Australia’s energy distribution and his latest prey, APA, is already a monopolypipeline operator on the East Coast.

This takeover bid should be dismissed as a joke. It ought to be strenuously opposed by ACCC and FIRB. Moreover the ATO commissioners must be shaking their heads in disbelief. CKI has a dismal record of paying tax in this country and elsewhere and when foreign predators take an asset offshore, it mostly results in plunging income tax contributions. ...

• *Bruce Robertson is an investment analyst @ barobertson111*

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/apa-shares-soar-as-hong-kong-giant-tables-13billion-offer-for-australias-biggest-gas-pipeline-operator/news-story/ae4bac415e577b6c5a013243e7d9db9>

### APA shares soar as Hong Kong giant tables \$13 billion offer

John Dagge, *Deals, Herald Sun*, 13/06/2018

Shares in Australia’s biggest gas pipeline operator, APA Group, have surged to a record high after the company fielded a \$13 billion takeover offer from a major Chinese infrastructure investor.

APA shares on Wednesday soared more than 20 per cent — their biggest one-day price gain yet — after the pipeline operator revealed an arm of Hong Kong’s Cheung Kong Holdings had offered to buy it outright. ...

APA operates 15,000km of pipelines across mainland Australia, accounting for about half of the nation’s natural gas usage.

The CK group of companies — founded by Hong Kong billionaire Li Ka-shing — is already the biggest foreign owner of Australian utility assets. ...

**CONTACT FFB: Email**  
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 with your comments & tips

## Miners accuse 'lying greenies' of killing industry

# TOFU TYRANTS

EXCLUSIVE  
JOHN MCCARTHY

MINING chiefs have united to issue a landmark warning that greenies behind a "Tofu Curtain" and mountains of red and green tape will make it impossible for new projects in some of Queensland's most successful industries to be built in future. Coal, gas and bauxite bosses, whose industries employ

38,000 Queenslanders and pour \$55 billion into the economy, said the mining industry had become "the new tobacco" – at the cost of the state's prosperity. Richard Cottee, who started the state's coal seam gas industry, declared a "Tofu Curtain" divided the green, inner-city suburbs from the rest of Queensland and miners were losing the argument to lying activists. REPORT P4-5

<https://www.ntnews.com.au/news/national/lying-greenies-accused-of-killing-queensland-mining-industry/news-story/c8bada0682d13ac636c07afc28b8bb9>

### 'Lying' greenies accused of killing Queensland mining industry

John McCarthy, *Courier-Mail*, 15/06/2018

Mining bosses have issued a dire warning that greenies behind the "Tofu Curtain" and mountains of red and green tape will make it impossible for new projects in some of Queensland's most successful industries to be built in the future. ...

"My battle is in West End and Melbourne," the head LNG producer, APLNG's chief executive Warwick King told a recent function.

Former QGC boss Richard Cottee called it the "Tofu Curtain" that divides the green inner-city suburbs from the rest of Queensland.

Mr Cottee, who started the coal seam gas industry in Queensland, said the industry was losing the argument.

"One way the industry is going wrong is it still thinking in terms of facts and truth," he said.

"We still deal in facts and science when they (activists) are using emotion. ...

The State Government's Resources Investment Commissioner Todd Harrington said the industry had lost young adults.

"I know kids in my community in Brisbane ... I can't engage with a 20-year-old at a barbecue about resources – they are so polarised with the green view," he said.

"I reckon there needs to be a focus on kids under 10, because their eyes are open to what is taught to them."

Their comments were backed by federal Resources Minister Matt Canavan, who said energy costs were at

such a level a new refinery or smelter would not be viable and, without coal and gas, the Queensland Government would be even further in debt. ...

Origin is a partner in APLNG, and its former chief executive Grant King has previously said that if the green activist tactics deployed against coal projects had also been used against the gas sector, "we would have been unlikely to have seen the creation of an entirely new LNG export industry". ...

New Hope Group's Shane Stephan said his \$900 million Acland coal mine expansion was facing another potential 10 to 12-month delay in the courts, adding to the 11 years it has taken to get it this far.

Queensland Resources Council chief executive Ian Macfarlane said the "lawfare" waged in the courts by green groups was "spooking everyone".

State Gas's Lucy Snelling said there had been a raft of regulation over the past year in the gas industry. ...

<https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/held-hostage-pro-coal-alliance-at-odds-with-renewable/3443146/>

### 'Held hostage': Pro-coal at odds with renewable focus

Tegan Annett, *Gladstone Observer*, 16/06/2018

New coal will be put on a pedestal by Flynn MP Ken O'Dowd and the Monash Forum as they ramp up efforts to shift the nation's focus from renewable energy.

The pro-coal 'ginger group' will grow louder with its campaigning next week for four, high-efficiency, low-emissions, coal-fired power stations.

The forum is an alliance of 20 MPs against the nation's energy policy. ...

Mr O'Dowd said the Monash Forum would use advertisements, flyers

and the media to spread facts about coal-fired power that would trump the "doomsayers".

Members for Capricornia, Hinkler and Dawson are also part of the pro-coal ginger group.

Its most high-profile member is former prime minister Tony Abbott. ...

<https://www.greenleft.org.au/content/activists-hold-jamboree-organise-beyond-coal-and-gas>

### Activists hold jamboree to organise beyond coal and gas

Margaret Gleeson, *GreenLeft Weekly*, 14/06/2018

The burgeoning movements against coal and gas projects, to defend the Great Barrier Reef and to conserve precious water resources were boosted by the Beyond Coal and Gas Jamboree held on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland over May 31 to June 3.

More than 350 activists from around Australia joined international guests from the Pacific, the US and India at the fourth Beyond Coal and Gas gathering.

Participants included Indigenous campaigners against fracking in the Kimberley, Western Australia; the Northern Territory; and against coal mining on traditional lands in the Galilee Basin, in Queensland. Also present were activists from grassroots campaigns in Port Augusta in South Australia; Gippsland in Victoria; Central and North Queensland; the Hunter and South Coast New South Wales; as well as from metropolitan areas like Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne and Adelaide. ...

The opening session, "Indigenous rising: protecting country and organising our people", heard how Indigenous communities are heading up the fight to defend their lands from coal and coal seam gas mining.

Adrian Burragubba from the Wangan and Jagalingou Traditional Owners Council (W&J) spoke of their opposition since 2012 of the Adani Carmichael coal project in the Galilee Basin, and the court challenges they have faced. ...

"We have a vision for our people that is sustainable," Burragubba said. "We want economic independence, and to make a future on our Country that is respectful of the land and uplifting for our people. We want to invest in solar energy and other new clean enterprises.

"We don't want scraps from a corrupt

News this week ... from previous page



Adrian Burragubba addresses the Beyond Coal and Gas Jamboree. Photo: Lock the Gate

corporation looking to profit from the permanent destruction of our Country and culture, or meagre handouts and low paid dirty jobs that require us to give up our human rights." ...

A feature of the Jamboree was reports of victorious campaigns that were led by local groups, such as the Bentley Blockade and against AGL Gloucester, which were then taken up by nationally based non-government organisations (NGOs) and campaign groups such as GetUp!, Stop Adani, 350.org, Lock the Gate, Galilee Blockade and Frontline Action Against Coal. ...

International guests included Dr Vaishali Patil, a climate activist from India. She [said] "Adani is known to be damaging the environment in India... when a new project is proposed the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is sponsored by the company. So even if it uses low-grade coal from Australia the EIS of future projects will not matter because Adani sanctions it. ... Thousands of fisherfolk will lose their livelihood, agricultural land will

be damaged and there will be severe health impacts. ... However we are seeing political restrictions on NGOs [in India]. There is a growing fundamentalism coming from governments as feudal forces reassert themselves. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/jun/14/big-oil-ceo-climate-change-reality-check-pope>

**Big Oil CEOs needed a climate change reality check. The pope delivered**

Bill McKibben, *The Guardian*, 14/06/2018

You kind of expect popes to talk about spiritual stuff, kind of the way you expect chefs to discuss spices or tree surgeons to make small talk about overhanging limbs. ...

The occasion was the gathering of fossil fuel executives at the Vatican, one of a series of meetings to mark the third anniversary of Laudato Si, his majestic encyclical on global warming. The meetings were closed, but by all accounts big oil put forward its usual anodyne arguments: any energy transition must be slow, moving too fast to renewable energy would hurt the poor by raising prices, and so forth.

In response, Francis graciously thanked the oil executives for attending, and for "developing more careful approaches to the assessment of climate risk". But then he got down to business. "Is it enough?" he asked. "Will we turn the corner in time? No one can answer that with certainty, but with each month that passes, the challenge of energy transition becomes more pressing." Two and a half years after the Paris climate talks, he pointed out, "carbon dioxide emissions and atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases remain very high. This is disturbing and a cause for real concern." Indeed.

What's really "worrying", though, "is the continued search for new fossil fuel reserves, whereas the Paris agree-

ment clearly urged keeping most fossil fuels underground". And in that small sentence he calls the bluff on most of what passes for climate action among nations and among fossil fuel companies. ...

But no one has been willing to face the fact that we have to leave more than 80% of known fossil fuel reserves underground if we have any chance of meeting the Paris targets. No company has been willing to commit to leaving the coal and oil and gas in the earth, and almost no nation has been willing to make them do so. ...

• Bill McKibben is the Schumann Distinguished Scholar at Middlebury College and the founder of the climate campaign 350.org



**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>

**SACRIFICE ZONE**

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

<https://vimeo.com/257444267>

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