



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 1:30 • 26 JUNE 2018

NSW wants to ban protests on Crown Land

The NSW Civil Liberties Council (CCL) is appalled to learn that from July 1, the NSW State Government will have incredibly wide powers to disperse or ban protests, rallies, and virtually any public gathering across about half of all NSW state land.

On 16 March this year, the NSW State Government published the Crown Land Management Regulation 2018 (NSW). Included was a provision that public officials would have broad power to “direct a person” to stop “Taking part in any gathering, meeting or assembly”.

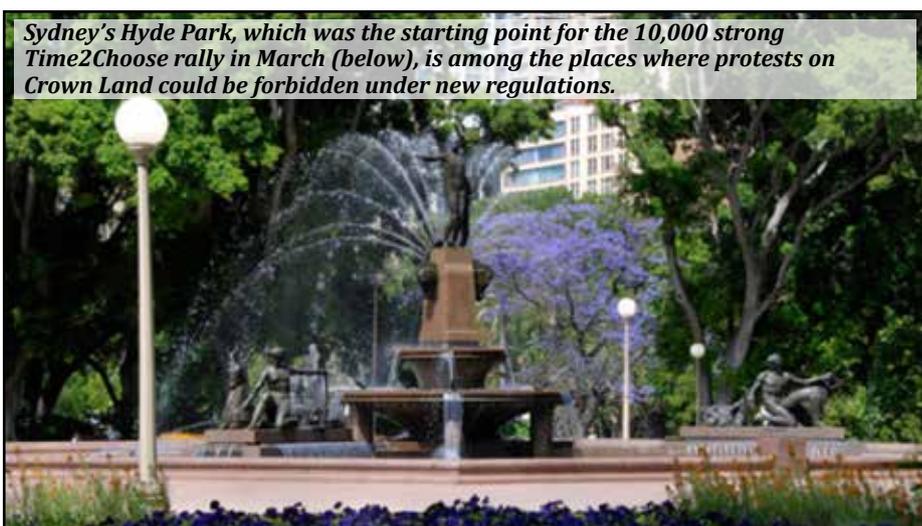
The only exception provided for is “in the case of a cemetery, for the purpose of a religious or other ceremony of burial or commemoration”.

Alternatively, public officials have broad discretion to affix a conspicuous sign prohibiting any gathering, meeting or assembly – again, unless the public gathering was a funeral.

Town squares, parks, roads, beaches, community halls ...

Police, Local Council officials, and even so-far unspecified categories of people or government employees could soon have the power to ban people from holding public gatherings on public land. The territory where these incredibly broad powers would apply is called Crown Land – land owned by the State Government. This includes town squares, parks, roads, beaches, community halls and more.

If these regulations are allowed to stand, the effect will not just be that protests, rallies and demonstrations can only occur at the sufferance of police and other officials.



Sydney's Hyde Park, which was the starting point for the 10,000 strong Time2Choose rally in March (below), is among the places where protests on Crown Land could be forbidden under new regulations.

Penalties up to \$11,000

Our right to assemble on public land will become something less than a license. That right may temporarily be granted by public officials, but it may just as easily be withdrawn, at any time, for any reason. The penalty for defying such a ban or order to stop meeting in public could be up to \$11,000.

Greens MLC David Shoebridge sought to disallow this regulation on June 20. The government prevented debate on his motion. It is shocking that the government would pass such a sweeping attack on our civil liberties, and then prevent parliamentary debate on the subject.

CCL urges immediate, unconditional repeal

The time to speak out against these regulations is now. CCL objects to these regulations in the strongest possible terms, and urges their immediate and unconditional repeal.

Crown Land is land that is owned



by the NSW State Government. This amounts to about half of all land in NSW. According to the Department of Industry, which manages Crown Land, this includes some of the most iconic and diverse public land through the Crown reserve system.

The 35,000 Crown reserves provide many of the state's town squares and local parks, state heritage sites, buildings, community halls, nature reserves, coastal lands, waterway corridors, sporting grounds, racetracks, showgrounds, caravan parks, camping areas, travelling stock routes, rest areas,

• Continued p2

• P 2: WA taxpayers subsidise frackers

• P 3: Community's mine challenge rejected

• P 4: Miners, pollies fudge figures

Civil liberties attacked: govt wants Nannas off the streets



• Continued from p1

walking tracks, commons, community and government infrastructure and facilities. Hyde Park and Bondi Beach in Sydney are two famous examples of the NSW Crown reserve system at work.

The department manages around 54,000 leases and licences enabling the use of Crown land across the state for a range of commercial, agricultural, industrial, community, residential and private uses.

This includes land 'set aside on behalf of the community for a wide range of public purposes including environmental and heritage protection, recreation and sport, open space, community halls, special events and government services'.

What legislation applies to Crown Land?

Right now, the Crown Lands Act 1989 (NSW) applies to Crown Land. Under that Act, regulations can be passed to flesh out some of its provisions. However, in 2016, the Crown Land Management Act 2016 (NSW) was passed. It provided that an "authorised officer may direct a person" to "stop carrying on an activity on Crown land of a kind prescribed by the regulations".

Alternatively, the Minister or a Crown land manager may cause a notice to be displayed in a conspicuous place to prohibit persons from "carrying on an activity on Crown land of a kind prescribed by the regulations." An "authorised officer" may be someone appointed under a written instrument by the Minister who works for the government, a local council, or another class of persons prescribed by the regulations.

– Stephen Blanks, President, NSW Council for Civil Liberties

WA taxpayers subsidising fracking companies through exploration incentive scheme



Seismic 'thumper trucks'. Photo: supplied

The Western Australia government has announced it is to fund new seismic surveys in the Pilbara in a move Greens MP Robin Chapple said amounted to an "effective subsidy for fracking companies".

The announcement comes while the state is still covered by a fracking moratorium with the government yet to announce whether it will give the go-ahead to fracking in WA.

Mr Chapple accused the Mines Minister of undermining the fracking moratorium by spending taxpayers money on survey work designed to help oil and gas companies.

"The Minister is making it look as if the McGowan Government has already made up its mind about fracking and will open up the Kimberley and possibly the Pilbara to invasive gasfields such as those we have seen in Queensland and the US.

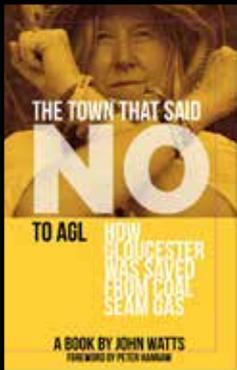
"Just because there are fewer people in the Kimberley and Pilbara, it doesn't mean the country is 'empty' and can be sacrificed.

"The opposite is true: Traditional Owners are on country all the time carrying out cultural practices and getting traditional foods.

"The Labor Party promised veto rights for Traditional Owners at the election but we haven't heard anything more: instead, we have heard a lot from the Minister about promoting and subsidising fracking companies."

The seismic survey involves high tech 'thumper trucks' testing more than 900km of the Pilbara from Kiwirrkurra in the east to Marble Bar in the Pilbara.

The project is being funded by the State Government's Exploration Incentive Scheme and the Commonwealth's Exploring for the Future program. It is expected to last 10 to 12 weeks.



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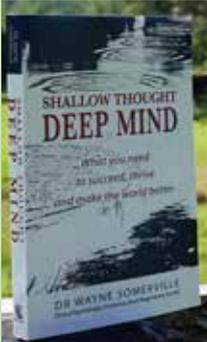
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FOSSIL FOOL BULLETIN

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

Shallow Thought, Deep Mind: What you need to succeed, thrive and make the world better



For everyone who takes on life's challenges and dreams of brighter tomorrows.

The book can be purchased from website www.drwaynesomerville.com for \$24.99 which includes postage anywhere in Australia and GST. The e-book version is available on Amazon.

Community challenge to Wilpinjong mine extension rejected

NSW planning laws failing to create meaningful nexus between words and action on climate change

The Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) NSW says a court decision has exposed serious flaws in NSW planning laws. The Court's finding is that the State's planning laws do not require decision-makers to consider the NSW Climate Change Policy Framework and Australia's status as a signatory to the Paris Agreement when considering the approval of coal mining projects in NSW.

The Land and Environment Court upheld the NSW Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) decision to approve the extension to Wilpinjong open-cut mine near Wollar in the Hunter Valley, despite a challenge on climate change grounds from the Wollar Progress Association, represented by EDO NSW.

Wilpinjong feeds Bayswater power stn

EDO NSW argued in a February 2018 hearing that the NSW Climate Change Policy Framework and the Commonwealth Government's commitment to the Paris Agreement were relevant policies that the PAC was required – but failed – to have regard to when considering the downstream greenhouse gas emissions from the burning of coal from Wilpinjong, a substantial proportion of which will be burnt at Bayswater Power Station in NSW.

In light of the finding, EDO NSW CEO David Morris emphasised the need for reform. "This is certainly not the judgment that we or our clients

Wilpinjong Mine in action. Photo: EDO NSW



wanted. But perhaps it's the judgment we needed. We now know that aspirational policy statements, like those contained in the NSW Climate Change Policy Framework, fail to have any meaningful application to NSW mine approvals. It's these approvals – and the coal which is consequently mined and burned – that represent NSW's contribution to climate change.

Wollar community extremely disappointed

"Our client brought this case in the public interest – coal mining's contribution to climate change is self-evidently a matter of public interest. They are, understandably, extremely disappointed with the decision and will digest the decision carefully before considering their options."

Communities affected by large coal

mines in the Hunter Valley have repeatedly appealed to the Government to stop taking away the public's right to challenge the merits of mining approvals.

Lock the Gate Alliance spokesperson Georgina Woods said, "We have this terrible regulatory failure where decisions are made to approve coal mines that have irreversible damaging consequences, but there is no legal avenue for communities to appeal to the Land and Environment Court.

"The community at Wollar had only very narrow legal rights to challenge the approval of the Wilpinjong coal mine expansion. They were denied the right to seek review in the Land and Environment Court of the merits of the expansion of the Wilpinjong mine.

Defeating Metgasco: The Bentley Effect movie now online



When the coal seam gas industry staked a claim on the Northern Rivers shire of Australia, alarm bells rang out. A critical mass of people from all walks of life – farmers, landowners, mums, dads, activists, scientists – organised themselves to rally against the unconventional gas invasion. Despite the enormous public opposition, the gas industry and the State Government were determined to see their gas plan through. A series of dramatic blockades ensued, before the final battle lines were drawn in the peaceful farming valley of Bentley. Thousands of people flocked to the site to stare down the threat of 850 riot police, ordered in to break up the protest. What happened next set an historic precedent.

<https://www.thebentleyeffect.com/>



Miners fudge job figures

A research report released by The Australia Institute shows job claims of the Acland mine on the Darling Downs have been grossly exaggerated by owners New Hope and other coal lobbyists.

The new report shows:

- New Acland Coal and the Queensland Resource Council (QRC) are using inflated job figures up to triple what experts advise.
- Regional employment is dominated not by mining, but by meat processing, defence, road freight and beef cattle. The region does not 'rely' on the Acland mine.
- Recent major investments have been abattoir expansion, rail upgrades, a regional data centre, airport, road infrastructure and large scale solar projects.

Mining job figure claims tripled

"New Acland Coal and the QRC cite figures of 700 jobs, a claim that is triple the numbers cited by the company's own expert in court," said Dr Cameron Murray, report author.

"In fact, New Acland Coal's economic expert estimated the mine would create just 250 regional jobs, noting that 'the jobs created are fairly insignificant in terms of overall numbers and that they will largely be filled by workers who come from other industries'.

"Claims by coal interests that the Acland Stage 3 mine will 'save' the nearby town of Oakey, and that Oakey is reliant on such jobs, are also incorrect as many jobs do not go to locals.

"Data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows that just 46 people in Oakey – which amounts to 1.8% of the town's workforce – are listed as working in mining.

The real jobs: farming, freight, defence

"The majority of regional employment in this region is in diverse, growth industries including meat processing, beef cattle, road freight and defence. The data shows that these are the industries that Oakey relies on economically, not mining.

"If anything, there is a shortage of labour, not a shortage of job openings in the region. In fact, the media has dubbed the current situation in

Toowoomba and the Darling Downs as a '\$13 billion economic bonanza'.

"Our review shows mining interests are promoting bad economics and dodgy numbers on jobs and investment in an apparent bid to distort the economic picture of the mine's significance in order to influence government decisions about it," Dr Murray said.

FFB notes the similarity of the miners' claims to Adani's famously false claim of 10,000 jobs when the number revealed in a court case turned out to be around 1,600.

Politicians use industry's fake figures

Senator for coal, Matt Canavan, recently claimed that opening the Galilee Basin to all six current coal mining proposals (including Adani's) would yield 16,000 jobs. Yeah, right.

Meanwhile, Queensland resources minister, Anthony Lynham, has been caught out using exaggerated job numbers circulated by the mining lobby when announcing the state would sell land for another six thermal coal mines.

According to *The Guardian*, Lynham said one in eight Queenslanders' jobs was sustained by mining.

The figure came from a report by the Queensland Resources Council which used a "multiplier" – a method of economic analysis considered a "biased estimator" by the Australian Bureau of Statistics – to claim that 282,000 jobs in Queensland were supported by mining.

According to census data, 49,997 people in Queensland work in the mining sector, about 2.3% of the state's workforce, or about one in 47 jobs. (See more p14.)

ACF: Reject Adani plan

The Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) has called on the Queensland Government not to approve Adani's groundwater ecosystem plan after a former government adviser identified significant flaws that would risk the health of the Great Artesian Basin.

The review of Adani's plan by Tom Crothers, a former Queensland government officer who has also advised the National Water Commission, found:

- The plan paralyzes corrective management actions to address environmental harm through never-ending investigations and analysis;
- The plan's focus on testing is designed to allow Adani multiple opportunities to deny responsibility for causing environmental harm;
- The plan fails to identify potential impacts of the Carmichael coal mine on key ecological sites.

Commissioned by ACF, Mr Crothers' review identified that not only would the groundwater plan fail to protect unique ecosystems such as the Doongmabulla Springs, it would also make it difficult to hold Adani accountable for damage it caused.

Adani can avoid being held to account

Mr Crothers said: "Much of the groundwater plan for Adani's coal mine needs major changes. It seems designed to achieve 'analysis paralysis' and to create situations where Adani can avoid being held accountable for potential damage it causes.

"It also fails to mention or acknowledge substantial impacts that the mine will have on nearby ecosystems. Put simply the plan is entirely inadequate."

ACF Campaigns Director, Dr Paul Sinclair, said the review raised troubling questions about the Adani coal mine's potential impact on groundwater.

"Adani's groundwater management plan contains holes that are so big you could drive a coal train through them. Relying on a company that has a record of avoiding responsibility for environmental damage to self-monitor is naïve at best and negligent at worst.



Gas activists win award



Annie Kia of Lock the Gate and Clare Twomey of the Knitting Nannas Against Gas. Photo; Eve Jeffery

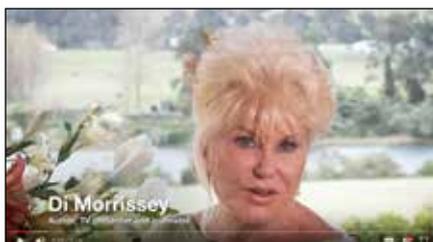
The Ngara Institute will present its 2018 Australian Activist of the Year award jointly to Annie Kia of Lock the Gate and to the Knitting Nannas Against Gas. This is in recognition of their outstanding work in campaigning against the development of Coal Seam Gas sites in NSW and beyond. Their work during the Bentley Blockade is particularly recognised.

The award will be presented by former Human Rights Commissioner, Gillian Triggs, at the Ngara Institute's Annual Lecture in Mullumbimby, NSW, this Saturday night, June 30.

The Institute's inaugural award last year was presented to Adrian Burragabba and Murrawah Johnson for their work in fighting for the rights of Indigenous people in the face of the proposed development of the Adani mine in Queensland's Galilee Basin.

The Ngara Institute is best known for its New Politics in the Pub initiative organised by local people for a national and international audience.

Author: Stand up for country



Top-selling author Di Morrissey has appealed to people to stand up for country. She speaks in a Greenpeace promotion, highlighting the damage caused by mining in the Hunter Valley. See the video here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PHhZJ0As_mDDarn-QLigJaaMk8WbVHlA/view

FFB publishes 30th edition

While working on this 30th edition of FFB – *Fossil Fool Bulletin* – it struck me that the big picture is so much darker, the power and reach of the fossil fuel industry is so much greater than my initial perception of it.

Last November, 2017, when FFB kicked off, I envisaged it would be just a few pages weekly. However, months of focus on the industry has made it clear we are subject to a major onslaught from the fossil fools.

We have had the odd victory (Bentley, Gloucester) but the industry is intent on expansion, gouging out every bit of our country they can force access to, for as long as they can get away with it.

They divide communities and wreck them. They disperse their pollution widely and without accountability. They ruin people's lives, devastate the health of anyone living near them, and drive people to desperation and suicide.

I'm not giving up, despite the job being much bigger than anticipated.

FFB gives you information to fight back with, that is quick to digest. Over time it builds up a valuable reference, using credible sources. Knowledge is power when it comes to confronting fossil fools.



Narrabri gasfield: Santos behind surveys in the Pilliga and Northern Rivers

Santos has public opinion survey company Taverners running focus groups and telephone polling people around the Pilliga and in the Northern Rivers of NSW.

Some have been paid \$100 to attend discussion groups in Narrabri which focused on the proposed Narrabri gasfield.

Meanwhile, questions asked over the phone included people's voting preferences and whether the Narrabri Gas Project would make a difference.

People were asked if they would try to influence locals, whether they thought the community would accept the gas project, whether they knew who the company involved in the Narrabri Gas Project was, and if the project would be good for the local economy.

Inside the news

The **Murdoch** press blitzed a **campaign for coal** over its pages from Townsville to Brisbane and nation-wide this week.

'**Coal came back from the dead**'; 'Asia demand for coal justifies new mines in Australia'; 'Adani just one of the crowd in Galilee Basin'; wrote Rupert's minions.

The Australian gave a platform to minister for fossils, **Matt Canavan** to say 'the death of coal is greatly exaggerated in some quarters', a line he has become fond of saying.

A more balanced view was presented by the AIM Network; Kay Lee's article '**Shifting sands in the Galilee Basin**' is a worthy read (p7).

It was satisfying to see that Frontline Action on Coal managed some disruption at Brisbane's **Energy Mines and Money** conference (p10).

The **PFAS contamination** issue is emerging as another aspect of the gas industry and has spread beyond precincts around airports and defence installations.

The behaviour of PFAS manufacturer **3M** and its acolyte Prof John P Geisy parallels that of the CSG industry in '**taking command of science**' to obscure and distort the dangers of pollution (p12).

PFAS is being **dispersed** into the environment and food chain in combination with **CSG drilling waste** by compost and potting mix manufacturer **NuGrow**. Enough to put you right off your potted herbs.

It has now emerged that Victoria's **Esso** Longford gas plant has contaminated adjacent **farmland** with PFAS and it has been identified in cattle grazing there. Farmers have been told not to eat their **beef**, but that its OK to sell it – a splendid piece of logic.

Authorities deny any risk to livestock or humans, but whenever do you hear any environment or health authority stand up for people, animals or the environment?

It is impossible to conclude **regulators** are protecting anybody but the **polluting industries** they facilitate.

Like **asbestos** and **tobacco**, the human health impact of fossil fuels becomes apparent.



In the news this week:

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 29,500 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.themorningbulletin.com.au/news/mayor-says-rocky-wont-pull-their-funds-for-adanis-/3444153/>

Mayor says Rocky won't pull their funds for Adani's airport

Leighton Smith, Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, 17/06/2018

Rockhampton Region mayor Margaret Strelow said she won't follow Townsville's lead in redirecting funds set aside to build Adani's airport.

In a surprise announcement on Friday, Townsville Mayor Jenny Hill declared that her council would take the \$18.5m earmarked for the Carmichael coal mine airport and put it towards other shovel-ready job-generating projects around their city ...

Cr Strelow said Townsville's decision was unsurprising given that she'd been given the heads up, and she attributed it to Townsville City Council's financial situation.

She said because Rockhampton was better placed financially, they wouldn't be following their lead by withdrawing their airport funding pledge. ...

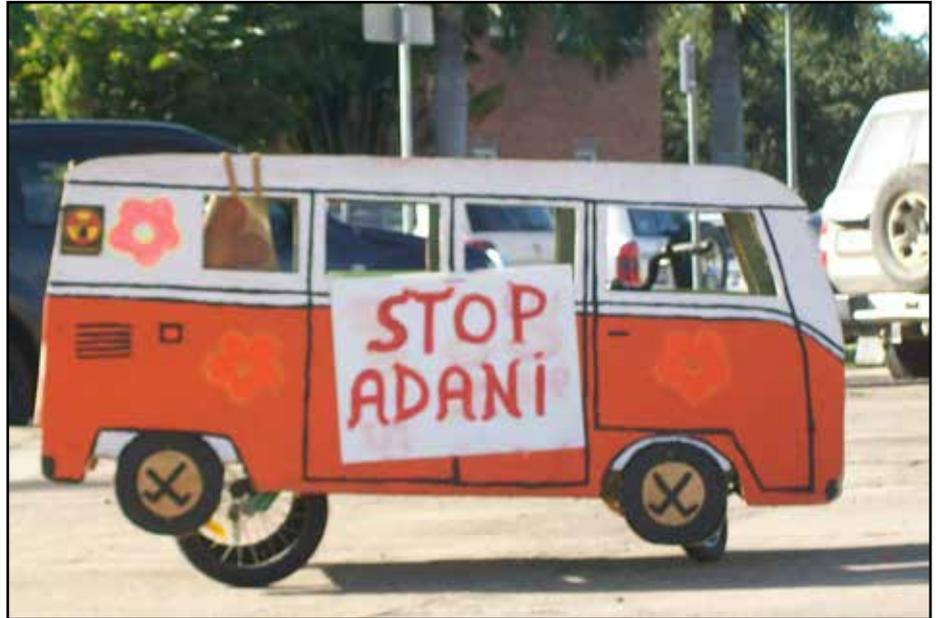
<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/business/townsville-and-rockhampton-mayors-at-odds-after-adani-airstrip-funding-fallout/news-story/00675da7aad-368820703c6b4aea5be2a>

Townsville and Rockhampton Mayors at odds after Adani airstrip funding fallout

Clare Armstrong, Townsville Bulletin, 19/06/2018

Townsville Mayor Jenny Hill has denied the city could lose job opportunities to Rockhampton after \$18.5 million slated for Adani's Carmichael coal mine airstrip was redirected to other local projects.

Cr Hill said the Townsville City Council's decision to reinvest the money earmarked for Adani did not mean the region would lose economic benefits should the airstrip go ahead at a later date. ...



Meet the Stop Adani Kombi! This pedal powered beauty was last seen running rings around Matt Canavan's office in Rockhampton. "Pushies not coal pushers! Kombis not climate chaos!" said the FLAC Rocky crew. Photo: Frontline Action on Coal

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville-regional/antiadani-activists-want-townsville-city-council-to-cancel-airstrip-funding-permanently/news-story/a2ea04ee599ac150c4f002770a18ab70>

Anti-Adani activists want Townsville City Council to cancel airstrip funding permanently

Clare Armstrong, Townsville Bulletin, 21/06/2018

Anti-Adani activists have delivered a petition to the Townsville City Council asking councillors to walk away from funding an airstrip for the megamine completely.

GetUp member and South Townsville resident Erika Ferguson yesterday delivered a 1642-signature petition to her local councillor Ann-Maree Greaney, calling on the council to rule out directing ratepayer money to help Adani.

"It's clear that the people of Townsville don't want their ratepayer money wasted on a private airstrip for Adani, not now and not ever," she said. ...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-19/adani-plans-to-protect-desert-springs-worthless-experts-say/9882548>

Adani plans to protect desert springs are worthless, water experts say

Michael Slezak, ABC, 19/06/2018

Adani's proposed protections for some of the world's last unspoiled desert

oases near its proposed coal mine in Queensland won't work at all and are "all about protecting Adani from prosecution", according to the authors of two reports.

The Australian Conservation Foundation, which has campaigned against the controversial project, gathered and commissioned the reviews by environmental law and water experts.

They looked at Adani's draft plans to protect the Doongmabulla Springs and Mellaluka Springs from the impacts of the proposed Carmichael coal mine. ...

Tom Crothers, a water policy expert, said that plan was virtually worthless, and would not save the springs or the species that rely on them. ...

"It is about protecting Adani from prosecution for environmental harm. And it's also protecting the company from being held to account for impacts on their impact on environmental assets." ...

Australian Conservation Foundation campaign director Paul Sinclair called on the Queensland Government to reject the plan.

"Adani's groundwater management plan contains holes that are so big you could drive a coal train through them," he said. ...

CONTACT FFB:

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with your comments & tips

A spokeswoman for the Federal Department of Environment said they were yet to receive a final version of the plan.

<https://www.greenleft.org.au/content/water-wars-new-front-fight-against-adani>

Water wars: A new front in the fight against Adani

Margaret Gleeson, GreenLeft Weekly, 21/06/2018

In April Adani applied to the federal Department of Environment and Energy to expand a dam by 450% and build a pipeline for its Carmichael coalmine, without an assessment under national environment laws.

The project, North Galilee Water Scheme, involves expanding an existing 2.2 billion-litre dam to 10 billion litres and building associated infrastructure, including 110 kilometres of pipeline to transport water from the Suttor River and Burdekin Basin. The aim is to supply at least 12.5 gigalitres of fresh water to the Carmichael coalmine and other mines in the Galilee Basin in central Queensland. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/judge-dumps-adani-deal/news-story/643d47cbef4c1854de349f318d8e14>

Judge dumps Adani deal

Clare Armstrong, Townsville Bulletin, 18/06/2018

A Federal Court judge has handed down a scathing assessment of an embattled Townsville indigenous corporation that negotiated a land use agreement with Adani without proper approval from Native Title holders.

Kyburra Munda Yalga Aboriginal Corporation received more than \$1 million for an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) it negotiated with Adani in 2014 that would allow the mining giant to carry out works to increase the capacity at Abbot Point port.

But last month, the Federal Court upheld an application made by another corporation, Juru Enterprise Limited (JEL), who claimed Kyburra did not have approval to negotiate an ancillary agreement with Adani on behalf of the Juru Native Title Claim Group. ...

Kyburra was placed into administration in October 2017 due to alleged financial mismanagement. The Bulletin understands members of JEL now want to redo the cultural heritage work undertaken by Kyburra members for Adani due to "serious inaccuracies".

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jun/22/indigenous-group-hid-more-than-2m-in-payments-from-adani-mining-giant>

Indigenous group hid more than \$2m in payments from Adani mining giant

Ben Smees, The Guardian, 22/06/2018

A north Queensland Indigenous organisation kept secret more than \$2m in payments by the Adani mining company, federal court documents show.

Guardian Australia has obtained court documents that show the Kyburra Munda Yalga Aboriginal Corporation did not account for payments by Adani, then paid its own directors up to \$1,000 a day cash-in-hand to conduct now-invalidated cultural heritage assessments for the Indian mining company.

The federal court last month delivered a ruling that may void the assessments, which are required to protect sacred sites from development.

It ruled that another Indigenous business, Juru Enterprises Limited, was the proper "nominated body" to represent traditional owners on a land-use agreement with Adani. ...

<https://www.themorningbulletin.com.au/news/findings-released-by-corruption-watchdog-in-adani-/3448667/>

Findings released by corruption watchdog in Adani deal

Madura McCormack, Gladstone Morning Bulletin 22/06/2018

Isaac Regional Council will not be investigated for its financial dealings with mining giant Adani, the state's corruption watchdog has ruled.

The Crime and Corruption Commission on Friday announced there is "no evidence that raises a reasonable suspicion of corrupt conduct" in reference to a deal that would see the mining company repay costs incurred by Isaac Regional Council to hire four extra staff to handle administrative and operational work. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/special-features/in-depth/adani-just-one-of-the-crowd-in-galilee-basin/news-story/b8fcd9b8d4a2cc14f076588c968a6ea?login=1>

Adani just one of the crowd in Galilee Basin

Clare Armstrong, Townsville Bulletin, 22/06/2018

As controversial Indian mining giant Adani suffers setbacks and delays, coal supporters remain confident the Galilee Basin will be opened one way or another.

This month the Indian company cut 15 jobs from its Townsville headquar-

ters, while the Townsville City Council redirected \$18.5 million slated for an airstrip after Adani failed to meet financial deadlines. ...

Industry sources told the Bulletin it is a widely held belief that billionaire Gina Rinehart will take the lead in the region and build her own rail corridor to the Basin should Adani ultimately fail to do so.

There are five other proposed coal mines in the Galilee Basin in addition to Adani, including the Alpha Coal Project, proposed by GVL Hancock Coal — a partnership between Indian company GVK and Gina Rinehart's Hancock Prospecting. ...

But for now Dawson LNP MP George Christensen says the Carmichael mine is still the obvious frontrunners to open up the Galilee Basin. ...

The idea that conservationists protest against Adani because they're Indian is a prominently held belief within the government's ranks.

Queensland LNP Senator Matt Canavan said he believed the focus on Adani was inherently "racist".

"The (activists) strategy is a transparent one, they want to stop jobs being created in the Galilee and they seek to obstruct any efforts," he said.

"I also think there's an element of racism here, explicitly and definitely targeted the Indian origins of Adani and that's regrettable."

But Queensland Greens Senator Andrew Bartlett said he wholeheartedly rejected the assertion Adani had been targeted by activists due its Indian ownership. ...

"Our position has always been 'no new thermal coal' and the Adani project is the biggest threat at the moment."

Senator Bartlett said there was "plenty of evidence" Adani had a poor track record operating in other countries. ...

Senator Canavan said the Townsville community had a vested interest in ensuring the Adani project went ahead. ...

"All together there are up to 16,000 direct jobs connected to the proposed projects in the Galilee Basin — it's massive." ...

<https://theaimn.com/shifting-sands-in-the-galilee-basin/>

Shifting sands in the Galilee Basin

Kaye Lee, AIM Network, 20/06/2018

Adani's original plan was to use the coal from the Carmichael mine in its

own generators at the Mundra power plant in Gujarat, India. Except Adani Power Mundra is on the verge of bankruptcy. ...

But you have to admire the perseverance of Adani in trying to get money out of our governments. ...

But here, we have Tony Abbott saying he was “misled by bureaucrats” and that our 2030 emissions reduction target was merely “aspirational”. We have Craig Kelly and Matt Canavan insisting that the nation’s well-being relies on coal.

And we have a re-emergent Clive Palmer who, after successfully getting rid of the carbon price and mining tax in his last foray into politics, may well have his sights set on getting a slice of some government money for himself.

Waratah Coal, the company owned by Palmer’s Mineralogy, told the ABC in February last year that it had made an application to the Clean Energy Finance Corporation to finance a proposed 900MW “clean coal” generator that would help provide electricity to Galilee coal mines planned by Palmer himself, Gina Rinehart, and Adani.

They say they will use carbon capture and storage by burying the emissions from the coal plant under the very same coal province that the three mining groups propose to mine – except that it will be “sequestered” in an “un-mineable” area of coal seams some 1km underground – a proposal that experts say is not commercially viable unless, of course, you get a shitload of government money to do it.

Then yesterday morning, we hear that Annastacia Palaszczuk told the Queensland Parliament that they would consider a taxpayer-funded loan from the Northern Australia Infrastructure Fund to unlock the state’s Galilee Basin coalfields if it were sought by a company other than Adani, just no-one has asked....yet. ...

Will Gina start bestowing gifts on Matt Canavan? Will Clive make a comeback? Will the dinosaurs of the Monash Forum prevail? We can’t subsidise renewables but we give billions to coal barons?

How ridiculous it all is.

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/cli-mate/asia-demand-for-coal-justifies-new-mines-in-australia/news-story/38c84e06b1b228d4e36fe648c4a2e43c>

Asia demand for coal ‘justifies new mines in Australia’

Joe Kelly, *The Australian*, 19/06/2018

Strengthening demand in Asia for thermal coal exports would justify the opening of new mining precincts in Australia and help reduce emissions, according to a new analysis that counters Labor suggestions that the outlook for thermal coal is in decline.

A report from industry analysts Commodity Insights has been used to sound a warning that a failure by Australia to meet the stronger regional demand for thermal coal would lead to higher emissions because countries would be forced to rely on lower quality coal. This outcome would also prevent the creation of more local jobs.

The report, prepared for the Minerals Council of Australia and the COAL21 Fund, finds that Asia’s thermal coal import demand is expected to grow by more than 400 million tonnes (Mt), from 740Mt in 2017 to 1147Mt in 2030. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/coal-mining-boom-how-coal-came-back-from-the-dead/news-story/934854589f5c5f9ec0f49ccd6b04e94a>

Coal mining boom: How coal came back from the dead

John McCarthy, *Courier-Mail*, 19/06/2018

Coal use has not only survived the onslaught of renewables, it has thrived

in its global use as a power source.

While renewable energy is booming, the coal companies that have stuck with the commodity, despite the climate change debate, are reaping massive financial benefits.

An analysis by BP shows renewable energy has failed to have any impact on coal’s global market share over the past 20 years, and Federal Resources Minister Matt Canavan said it showed that the Australian people had been lied to by activists about what was happening in the region. ...

Senator Canavan said the figures showed reports of coal’s death were greatly exaggerated. “That’s great news for Queensland,” he said.

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5467789/last-gasp-village-abandoned-as-residents-struggle-to-breathe/>

Upper Hunter residents living in the village of Camberwell say air quality is so bad they may have to abandon their homes.

Matthew Kelly, *Newcastle Herald*, 19/06/2018

The Upper Hunter village of Camberwell has been the proverbial canary in the coal mine when it comes to assessing the impacts of mining pollution on human health for the best part of two decades.

With eight mines now operating within 10 kilometres and another four extensions planned, those who have stayed on believe the end is nigh for their once thriving village.

“They [those who approve mining

Coal wagons in the Hunter Valley. Residents in the village of Camberwell may have to abandon their homes due to the poor air quality caused by coal mining.

Photo: Lock the Gate



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

projects] are so biased when they say a project will have a severe impact on human health," long-time resident Deidre Olofsson said.

"At what point is enough enough?" ...

About twenty families now live in and around Camberwell, compared to the 200-plus that lived there in the 1950s when the area boasted some of Hunter's richest dairy farming country. ...

The residents have also called for an urgent population health study on the impact of mining on Camberwell's residents.

"We not only cop the dust from the mines on our doorstep but the dust from further up in the Valley comes straight towards us."

"This community is bearing the cumulative impact of mining throughout the valley."

Doctors for the Environment told a recent Planning Assessment Commission meeting that it believed poor air quality was responsible for a 28.6 per cent increase in Singleton Hospital emergency department admissions between July-September, 2016 and July-September, 2017. ...

GAS, GAS, GAS

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/jun/18/not-safe-not-wanted-is-the-end-of-nt-fracking-ban-a-taste-of-things-to-come>

'Not safe, not wanted': is the end of NT fracking ban a taste of things to come?

Lisa Cox, *The Guardian*, 18/06/2018

The NT government has lifted its fracking moratorium despite fierce opposition, reflecting the war of attrition being waged by gas companies ...

"Most Australians are unaware that huge areas of the country are being transformed into industrial gas fields," says Mark Ogge, principal adviser at the Australia Institute.

"The Northern Territory is the latest chapter in the oil and gas industry's relentless expansion." ...

Organisations such as Lock the Gate, which emerged from grassroots opposition to coal and unconventional gas mining on Australia's east coast, say the industry is fighting a "war of attrition" and the recent lifting of the moratorium on fracking in the Northern Territory is indicative of its ability to push ahead.

The Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association (Apea), representing the oil and gas indus-

try, rejects the suggestion there is widespread opposition in the areas it operates. ...

In Queensland, producing gasfields already cover more than 30,000 square kilometres of the country region.

Ogge of The Australia Institute says the "insatiable thirst of Queensland's gas export terminals" has driven the NT to open up its iconic landscape to fracking, which is now increasing pressure on Western Australia to follow suit.

"Meanwhile, the industry and federal government are increasing the pressure on the few remaining pockets resisting the expansion, particularly in Victoria," he says. ...

<https://www.katherinetimes.com.au/story/5478120/only-beetaloo-to-be-fracked-mp-says/>

Only Beetaloo to be fracked: MP says

Chris McLennan, *Katherine Times*, 19/06/2018

Initial fracking will be confined to the Beetaloo Basin, south of Katherine, MP Robyn Lambley has claimed. ...

Solid opposition remains in Katherine to the development.

<https://www.ntnews.com.au/business/no-onshore-gas-production-in-the-territory-over-the-next-five-years-apart-from-the-beetaloo-basin-estimates-hearings-told/news-story/3ddffedfdb0e57cb7ffd6fffd8c621a>

No onshore gas production in the Territory over the next five years, apart from the Beetaloo Basin, Estimates hearings told

Gary Shipway, *NT News*, 21/06/2018

Alice Springs Independent Robyn Lambley was shocked to learn there

will be no onshore gas production in the Territory over the next five years, apart from the Beetaloo Basin about 500km southeast of Darwin.

Ms Lambley has called on the Government to undertake more Strategic Regional Environmental and Baseline Assessments in other prospective areas for onshore gas in the Territory. ...

However the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association said Beetaloo was the best choice for the first assessment.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-21/gorgon-gas-plant-wiping-out-a-year-of-solar-emission-savings/9890386>

How the Gorgon gas plant could wipe out a year's worth of Australia's solar emissions savings

Kathryn Diss, *ABC*, 21/06/2018

The combined greenhouse gas emissions saved by all of Australia's solar panels in a year could be wiped out because of technical problems at a single oil and gas project in Western Australia. ...

Chevron began operating its \$US54 billion (\$73 billion) Gorgon gas plant in the state's north-west in 2016.

Part of its environmental agreement was to capture and store underground 40 per cent of the plant's emissions through a sophisticated process known as geosequestration or carbon capture and storage. ...

Chevron predicted that process would have seen between 5.5 and 8 million tonnes of CO₂ injected into the ground during the plant's first two years of

Wiping out solar emissions savings: Chevron's Gorgon gas plant in WA. Photo: Chevron



production, making it one of the largest carbon abatement activities in the world.

Instead, technical problems with seals and corrosion issues in the infrastructure have delayed CO2 storage and the Federal Government, which contributed \$60 million towards the green technology, is not expecting the problem to be rectified until March 2019 — about two years after production began from the Gorgon gas field.

By that point, experts including energy consultancy firm Energetics predict the additional CO2 emitted into the atmosphere will be roughly equivalent to the 6.2 million tonnes in emissions saved each year by all the solar panels in the country combined — from small household rooftop systems to major commercial installations.

In the meantime, all those emissions supposed to be injected underground are being vented into the atmosphere.

The WA Government expects the EPA inquiry into the Gorgon sequestration delay could take months.

In the meantime, it remains unclear if the company will face any penalty for failing to comply with what industry watchers say is a key plank of its licence to operate.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/datablog/ng-interactive/2018/jun/18/an-unconventional-gas-boom-the-rise-of-csg-in-australia>

An unconventional gas boom: the rise of CSG in Australia

Nick Evershed, The Guardian, 18/06/2018

Australia's production of coal seam gas has risen exponentially since 1995, going from zero to 30% of the country's overall gas production in 2015-16.

This boom has been led by development in Queensland, with only a small number of wells in New South Wales contributing to production on the east coast of Australia. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/the-state-government-is-releasing-44000sq-km-of-land-for-coal-and-gas-mining/news-story/89285fde06ec0be876daa62f506078bb>

The State Government is releasing 44,000sq km of land for coal and gas mining

John McCarthy, Courier-Mail, 20/06/2018

The State Government is hoping to kickstart coal and gas development through the release of 44,000sq km of land in highly prospective areas.

A large block will be open for tender



Activists disrupted the Queensland Energy Mines and Money conference in Brisbane last week, unfurling an enormous banner and interrupting proceedings. Spokesperson for Frontline Action on Coal Brisbane, Scarlett Squire, said: "To meet Australia's obligations to the Paris climate accord and keep carbon emissions to a safe level, there can be no new investment in any fossil fuel projects – coal, oil or gas."

Photo: Frontline Action on Coal

for gas exploration east of Mount Isa and Cloncurry. A second block surrounds Blackall while further areas have been released in the Surat Basin and in the far west of the state.

A much smaller amount of coal exploration blocks will be available near Moranbah, west of Charleville and between Roma and Blackwater.

Mines and Resources Minister Anthony Lynham used the Mines Energy and Money conference in Brisbane to announce the release. ...

He said the release would support the next pipeline of developments.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/gas-and-pipeline-companies-promise-hundreds-of-surat-basin-jobs/news-story/7035b2d09cbf41384f3510df7e80655c>

Gas and pipeline companies promise hundreds of Surat Basin jobs

John McCarthy, Courier-Mail, 18/06/2018

Gas and pipeline companies have promised another 200 jobs and a \$140 million investment in the Surat Basin under a deal that is promising to get gas to the domestic market.

The deal is between oil and gas producer Senex, which recently won a Government tender for an acreage called Atlas, and Jemena.

As a major infrastructure operator Jemena will build, own and operate a 40 terajoule a day gas processing facility and pipeline to deliver gas from the Project Atlas natural gas acreage in the Surat Basin to the Wallumbilla Hub.

It adds to the almost \$900 million in coal and gas deals done in Queensland in recent weeks as prices for the state's commodities soar. ...

<https://www.livewiremarkets.com/wires/the-new-criteria-on-two-different-approaches-to-oil-and-gas-extraction>

Two different approaches to oil and gas extraction

Tim Boreham, Livewire, 21/06/2018

Leigh Creek management must be feeling like Fortescue Metals founder Andrew Forrest on opening his Cloud-break mine, after an analyst earlier opined he would safely lie on the railway track to the site because the mine would never be built.

A South Australian underground coal gasification (UGC) developer, Leigh Creek faced similar scepticism because of the misadventures of Peter Bond's now-defunct Linc Energy at its Chinchilla UGC site in Queensland. ...

Situated 550 kilometres north of Adelaide – a.k.a. Woop Woop – the open-cut Leigh Creek coal field had provided the black stuff for Port Augusta's power station over 60 years. The mine closed in 2016.

Apart from its remoteness and its geological features that make it amenable to UGC, the site was chosen because it has oodles of coal. Translated into gas produced, it has a certified 2C (best-estimate contingent) resource of 2964 petajoules, 8 percent of the country's onshore and offshore 2C gas reserves.

Leigh Creek brandishes the South

Australian government's assessment report, which directly compared Leigh Creek with Chinchilla.

While Leigh Creek was "closely engaged with the regulator and general public with high level of transparency", Linc's Queensland regulator had "limited engagement with the company and restrictive reporting triggers".

Furthermore, the Leigh Creek resource is deep (at least 200 metres) and the low permeability of coal reduced fracturing risk.

Chinchilla was – you guessed it – shallow at 125m, close to an aquifer and porous. ...

<https://www.chinchillanews.com.au/news/linc-energy-fall-out-simmers-away/3445205/>

Linc fallout simmers

John Weekes, Chinchilla news, 19/06/2018

Fallout from Linc Energy dramas will drag on after a \$5.5 million dispute flared up.

Linc founder Peter Bond has lost a bid to remove his obligations under an Environmental Protection Order. But in a new court decision, a judge said Mr Bond could still have grounds to appeal other issues broadly related to Linc's Chinchilla activities.

In 2016, the environment and heritage protection department told Mr Bond to pay a \$5.5 million guarantee to secure compliance with the EPO.

Mr Bond was then also told to file a report about how land rehabilitation would happen.

Two months ago, Linc, in liquidation, was found guilty of causing environmental damage at its underground coal gasification site. ...

Mr Bond now faces a separate criminal case – and has argued the Linc verdicts changed how he'd have to defend those criminal charges. ...

But in a new decision, he said the EPO dispute was separate from the criminal case, and the Linc trial. ...

In December, the High Court dismissed Mr Bond's application for special leave.

That meant Mr Bond was in breach of the EPO, at least with regard to bank guarantee and reporting requirements.

Mr Bond has not paid the \$5.5 million guarantee.

But Judge Jones said Mr Bond did not have to start rehabilitation works until November 2019 anyway.

He said it'd be pointless granting a stay for something scheduled for "so far into the future".

Judge Jones dismissed Mr Bond's application for a stay of the EPO but granted Mr Bond leave to file an amended notice of appeal.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/energy-regulator-sees-no-shortage-of-gas-for-east-coast/news-story/12572178c366233c745330dc226ac19a>

Energy regulator sees no shortage of gas for east coast

Matt Chambers, The Australian, 22/06/2018

The Australian Energy Market Operator has effectively declared the east coast gas crisis is over in a new report that forecasts no looming shortage of domestic supply for the next decade and turns recent forecasts on their head. ...

In its annual Gas Statement of Opportunities, AEMO forecasts there will be enough gas for domestic users in both the short and long term. This is because increased wind and solar power has reduced the call on gas-fired power; southern gas suppliers say they will boost production, Queensland LNG suppliers say they will put more gas into the domestic market and the Northern gas pipeline will add gas from the Northern Territory to the east coast system. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/renewable-energy-helps-to-avert-australias-gas-crisis/news-story/a44fada7e935ff5b7fe5f879b198f899>

Renewable energy helps to avert Australia's gas crisis

John McCarthy, Courier-Mail, 22/06/2018

A raft of new renewable energy projects has averted the gas crisis that threatened Australia's domestic power generation, according to the Australian Energy Market Operator.

But it has warned that bad weather could throw the entire equation out because of its impact on renewable generation. It also said there was still a need for gas supply reserves to be developed. ...

The Territory were focused on the Beetaloo Basin. ...

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/13/books/review-amity-prosperity-fracking-eliza-griswold.html>

A Community Cracked Open by Fracking

Jennifer Szali, NY Times, 13/06/2018

Any ideology operating under the seismic pressures of the actual world will reveal a seam of inconsistency, a

line of vulnerability running through it like a stress fracture. Free-market conservatives, for instance, have tried to square their support for big business with their professed fondness for little communities, sometimes by suggesting that the interests of both are one and the same.

Eliza Griswold will tell you what happens when they're not. Her sensitive and judicious new book, *Amity and Prosperity: One Family and the Fracturing of America*, is neither an outraged sermon delivered from a populist soapbox nor a pinched, professorial lecture. Griswold, a journalist and a poet, paid close attention to a community in southwestern Pennsylvania over the course of seven years to convey its confounding experience with hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, a process that injects water and chemicals deep into the ground in order to shake loose deposits of natural gas.

Considering the animus and hardship described in this book, the title sounds almost cruelly ironic, but it comes from the land itself. *Amity and Prosperity* are the names of two towns in Pennsylvania's Washington County, where "the history of energy extraction is etched into Appalachian hollows." ...

Natural gas may burn more cleanly than oil or coal, but flushing it out requires forcing enormous amounts of water and chemicals into the earth with pressure approaching a shotgun blast. (Oklahoma and Pennsylvania have had fracking-related earthquakes as a result.) Then there's the grim matter of the waste left over, what one candid extraction employee calls "demon water." Griswold describes sludge in a waste pond going septic, releasing an unbearable stench "like an infected wound." ...

Griswold chronicles all of this with care, as the Haney family and their neighbors, the Voyles family, endure mysterious ailments as well as the brutal demise of their farm animals to sudden seizures and horrific bleeding. But the graphic parts of this book are in some ways the least of it. Even more crushing are the humiliations of litigation, as Stacey and her neighbors try to get help from Pennsylvania's financially decimated Department of Environmental Protection. The D.E.P. gives them such a runaround that they have to petition the courts to force the state agency to do its job. ...

• *Amity and Prosperity: One Family and the Fracturing of America*, By Eliza Griswold, 318 pages. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. US\$27.

PNG GAS UNREST

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-19/png-attack-in-papua-new-guinea/9885952>

Armed protesters block access, burn equipment at PNG's biggest resources project

Eric Tlozak, ABC, 19/06/2018

Police in the Papua New Guinea Highlands fear they are outnumbered and outgunned by protesters who are blocking access to the country's biggest resources project.

The police commander in Hela Province, Martin Lakari, said armed men had blocked the road leading to the project and damaged earthmoving equipment. ...

Project operator ExxonMobil said only that it had received reports of damage to equipment. ...

"Host government security forces are in the area and also investigating. Our staff are all safe.

"Production at the Hides Gas Conditioning Plant is continuing normally."

Police commander Lakari said landowners were demanding 35 million kina in payments for "project security" and appealed for help in ending the protest. ...

Both Hela and Southern Highlands provinces were affected by a magnitude-7.5 earthquake in February, which forced the LNG project to suspend production for several weeks. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jun/20/pushing-for-civil-war-fears-riots-could-turn-into-widespread-conflict-in-png>

'Pushing for civil war': fears riots could turn into widespread conflict in PNG

Kate Lyons, The Guardian, 20/06/2018

Riots that erupted last week in Papua New Guinea could turn into a full-scale conflict, locals have said, as anger and chaos grip the Southern Highlands province. ...

On Tuesday morning, an armed group attacked an LNG pipeline construction site run by ExxonMobil in the neighbouring province of Hela, damaging earthmoving equipment and blocking the roads to the site. The attack on the Angore site - which is part of the country's biggest resources project - is thought to be unrelated to the violence in Mendi, and instead to be related to land ownership complaints. ...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-23/papua-new-guineas-defence-force-deploy-troops-to-highlands/9900954>

Papua New Guinea: Hela Province landowners set fire to ExxonMobil gas equipment. Photo: supplied



Papua New Guinea's Defence Force deploys 440 troops to Southern Highlands, Hela provinces

Bethanie Harriman, ABC, 23/06/2018

Papua New Guinea's Defence Force has deployed 440 troops to stop landowner violence and unrest in the country's highlands.

The soldiers will go to the Southern Highlands capital of Mendi and to the neighbouring Hela Province, site of the PNG Liquefied Natural Gas project. ...

On June 20, in Hela province, landowners set fire to equipment and blocked roads in Angore, an area, leading to the PNG LNG project, operated by Exxon-Mobil.

Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF) Commander Gilbert Toropo said soldiers would restore the rule of law. ...

Acting PNG Police Commissioner Jim Andrews said additional police would be sent into Angore to investigate and arrest the men who burned the Exxon-Mobil equipment. ...

The landowners are protesting about the non payment of royalties and other grants from the project by the PNG Government.

PFAS POISON

<https://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/health-and-wellness/toxic-secrets-professor-bragged-about-burying-bad-science-on-3m-chemicals-20180615-p4zisc.html>

Toxic Secrets: Professor 'bragged about burying bad science' on 3M chemicals

Carrie Fellner, SMH, 16/06/2018

As a leading international authority on toxic chemicals, Professor John P. Giesy is in the top percentile of active

authors in the world. ...

But Fairfax Media can now reveal that Professor Giesy was accused of covertly doing 3M's bidding in a widespread international campaign to suppress academic research on the dangers of PFAS.

Professor Giesy was one weapon in an arsenal of tactics used by the company to - in a phrase coined by 3M - "command the science" on the chemicals.

The documents have allowed the state to chronicle how 3M, over decades, allegedly misled the scientific community about the presence of its chemicals in the public's blood, undermined studies linking the chemicals with cancer and scrambled to selectively fund research to be used as a "defensive barrier to litigation".

Experts have branded the strategies nearly identical to those used historically by the tobacco and pharmaceutical industries.

At least 90 communities across Australia are being investigated for elevated levels of the contaminants, including 10 in Sydney. ...

To the outside world, Professor Giesy was a renowned and independent university academic.

"But privately, he characterised himself as part of the 3M team," alleged the State of Minnesota.

"Despite spending most of his career as a professor at public universities, Professor Giesy has a net worth of approximately \$20 million. This massive wealth results at least in part from his long-term involvement with 3M for the purpose of suppressing independent scientific research on PFAS." ...

In an email to a 3M laboratory manager, Professor Giesy described his role as trying to keep “bad papers out of the literature”, because in “litigation situations they can be a large obstacle to refute”. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/defence/soil-withdrawn-from-sale-over-pfas-fears/news-story/e64cfabce7d754b84e9ab79c6561666d>

Soil withdrawn from sale over PFAS fears

Rory Callinan, Michael McKenna, *The Australian*, 19/06/2018

Soil supplied by a waste-recycling company that took water contaminated with toxic firefighting chemicals from a military base has been withdrawn from sale by one of Queensland’s largest landscaping outlets.

Centenary Landscaping confirmed it has stopped selling its Econo Soil product which had been made from soil supplied by Nugrow Metro a waste recycler and composter facing action over its handling last year of water contaminated with perfluoroalkyls, or PFAS, substances from Amberley air base, west of Brisbane. ...

<https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/toxic-fears-farmers-warned-not-to-eat-the-beef-they-sell-20180622-p4zn32.html>

Toxic fears: Farmers warned not to eat the beef they sell

Debbie Cuthbertson, *The Age*, 22/06/2018

Farmers near Esso’s Longford gas plant and the East Sale RAAF Base in Gippsland have been warned not to eat meat, offal or dairy from their own livestock due to contamination by toxic chemicals but there are no restrictions

on them selling such products.

Elevated levels of PFAS — per- and poly-fluoroalkyl chemicals historically used in firefighting foam — have been detected in 45 cattle and 45 sheep on three properties near Esso Longford, Victoria’s chief veterinary officer Dr Charles Milne has confirmed to *The Age*. ...

Gippsland’s ... rich resources including coal and gas reserves mean it has for many years attracted some of the heaviest industry in Victoria.

IMPORT FARCE

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/exxon-mulls-victorian-lng-import-plant/news-story/e3e3e9ec61455585204b2b5ab456b076>

ExxonMobil considering Victorian LNG import plant

Matt Chambers, *The Australian*, 18/06/2018

Oil giant ExxonMobil is considering a Victorian LNG import plant to replace rapidly declining Bass Strait gasfields, in a move that could draw in BHP to help build a floating terminal at less than half the cost of rival east coast gas import plans by AGL Energy and Andrew Forrest. ...

In the wake of reports of rumours of the plan by consultant EnergyQuest, Macquarie analysts estimated a Longford LNG import plant would cost \$100 million, compared to announced costs of \$250m from AGL and \$200m to \$300m from Mr Forrest’s Australian Industrial Energy. ...

In the past year, the prospect of east coast LNG imports has switched from generally being regarded as ludicrous (given Queensland exports gas) to one

where there are now three serious projects being considered by the biggest names in the Australian and international energy sectors.

LNG imports are making economic sense because east coast gas prices are exposed to international pricing after \$70 billion of LNG export plants at Gladstone were built to export more gas than their proponents could develop themselves. ...

It’s understood Exxon has not formally decided on a location for its proposed Victorian plant. ...

FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/premier-open-to-mining-loans-just-not-adani/news-story/448daf12a65719f8858327808da88cc7>

Premier open to mining loans, just not Adani

Sarah Vogler, *Courier-Mail*, 19/06/2018

Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk has confirmed her Government is open to considering other Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility loan applications from miners wanting to start projects in the Galilee basin, so long as it is not Adani. ...

“Any NAIF proposal will be given proper consideration and assessed on its merits by the Queensland Government,” Ms Palaszczuk said in answer to a Question on Notice from Greens MP Michael Berkman. ...

Mr Berkman described Ms Palaszczuk’s response to his question as both “terrifying and disappointing”.

“Adani or no Adani, the Galilee must be protected from any new mining proposals. That coal must stay in the ground,” he said. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/markets/agl-s-vesey-has-become-a-punching-bag-for-polities-failures-20180619-p4zmd7.html>

AGL’s Vesey has become a punching bag for polities’ failures

Stephen Bartholomeusz, *SMH*, 20/06/2018

AGL chief executive Andy Vesey is being made the scapegoat for the failure of politicians to respond earlier to the obvious implications of their actions on climate change and the interactions of those policies with the development of an east coast export-LNG industry. ...

It’s not Andy Vesey or AGL driving prices up or choking domestic supply but rather the big structural changes to the market that have occurred over the past decade – without the politicians

Fossil fuel fan, Senator Matt Canavan, speaks in front of a NuGrow poster at an industry event. NuGrow turns toxic coal seam gas waste into compost and has been adding PFAS contaminated waste to its products.

PFAS manufacturer 3M provides a good example of how industrial polluters sieze command of science to hide the damage they do, in the same way as the tobacco industry has done.



News this week ... from previous page

devoting much serious thought or action to them until they started impacting voters – as the Queensland plants have fired up and policy-encouraged growth in renewables has accelerated.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/jun/20/fracking-labor-pledges-to-tighten-regulations-to-protect-water-resources>

Fracking: Labor pledges to tighten regulations to protect water resources

Lisa Cox, *The Guardian*, 20/06/2018

Regulations on unconventional gas development across Australia would be tightened up if Labor wins the next election.

Labor's shadow minister for the environment Tony Burke says the party, if elected, will keep the commitment it took to the 2016 election to broaden the "water trigger" to include other forms of unconventional gas extraction. The current water trigger, introduced by the Gillard government in 2013, assesses water resources as a matter of national significance only in relation to coal seam gas and coal mining.

It means that much of the country isn't covered by the legislation, even though the process used to extract shale and tight gas is similar to that used for coal seam gas mining. ...

The Greens, who pushed for shale and tight gas to be included as part of the water trigger when it was introduced, said "anything that mandates closer examination of impacts on water or anything else is always welcome".

But the party's environment and biodiversity spokesman Andrew Bartlett said there were other issues that also ought to be considered, such as greenhouse gas emissions and the impacts of projects on climate change, as well as the effectiveness of Australia's existing environmental protection framework. ...

Up to 90% of the territory's water supply comes from ground water and the bulk of its gas resource is shale, to which the water trigger doesn't apply.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/the-death-of-coal-power-is-greatly-exaggerated-in-certain-quarters/news-story/3405161c6cd39dce37e5e98e866f81>

The death of coal power is greatly exaggerated in certain quarters

Matt Canavan, *The Australian*, 20/06/2018

When the Hazelwood power station in Victoria's Latrobe Valley shut down

last year, the Australian Conservation Foundation claimed its closure was a signal "the era of polluting coal is coming to an end".

In its last full year of operation, Hazelwood generated 10 terawatt hours of power. In the past year, global electricity production has increased by 590 terawatt hours, almost half of this rise coming through the greater use of coal. In effect, in just one year, the equivalent of almost 30 Hazelwoods has been brought online. So much for an end to the era of coal. ...

At the very least, poor countries should not have rich countries hypocritically lecture them that they should not use coal. Those same rich countries often are wealthy thanks to their own use of coal.

The use of Australian coal benefits the world because it is cleaner and more efficient, and helps promote economic development, lifting millions from poverty. The era of coal is far from nearing an end.

• **Matt Canavan is Resources and Northern Australia Minister.**

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/jun/23/queensland-minister-accused-of-inflating-mining-job-numbers>

Queensland minister accused of inflating mining job numbers

Ben Smee, *The Guardian*, 23/06/2018

The Queensland resources minister has been accused of using exaggerated job numbers circulated by the mining lobby when announcing the state would sell land for another six thermal coalmines.

Anthony Lynham said one in eight Queenslanders' jobs was sustained by mining, as he announced he would auction potential coal tenements in the Galilee, Bowen and Surat basins last month.

The figure came from a report by the Queensland Resources Council which used a "multiplier" – a method of economic analysis considered a "biased estimator" by the Australian Bureau of Statistics – to claim that 282,000 jobs in Queensland were supported by mining.

According to census data, 49,997 people in Queensland work in the mining sector, about 2.3% of the state's workforce, or about one in 47 jobs. Lynham's department said in 2016 the number of "direct and indirect" jobs created by mining was about 180,000.

A senior economist at the Australia Institute, Cameron Murray, said the resources council was "double counting" jobs and its figures clearly overstated the scale of the industry. ...

Jobs remain a key rallying point for the mining industry and its supporters, particularly as unemployment remains high in many regional Queensland communities.

The New Acland mine west of Toowoomba has promoted its expansion plan with an advertising campaign to save the town of Oakey and claims that scuppering the expansion, which is tied up in the courts, would cost 700 jobs.

A petition to "save Oakey" implies the community will lose 700 jobs. Murray disputes those claims in a forthcoming report.

He said ABS data showed only 46 people in Oakey, less than 2% of the town's population, were employed by the mining sector. ABS data shows Oakey has more residents employed in meat processing, defence, meat wholesaling, cattle farming and road freight than in mining. ...

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