

# 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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FFB 1:12 • 20 FEBRUARY 2018

## New Acland expansion rejected: a win for Qld farming communities

*Last week's decision by Queensland's Environment and Science Department to reject New Acland's environmental authority amendment for the Stage 3 coal expansion is not just a win for Acland farmers, but a win for all farming communities.*

Environmental Defenders Qld CEO and Solicitor Jo-Anne Bragg said it was a win for trust in government and a win for proper legal process in Queensland.

"In May 2017, Queensland's Land Court recommended Stage 3 be refused following a 99-day public hearing including our client Oakey Coal Action Alliance – a group of 60 local landholders and townspeople.

### Outright refusal is a first

"It was one of the largest environmental public interest cases in Australian history – and the first time the Land Court had recommended the outright refusal of a mining project following a contested public hearing in its 120-year-history.

"The Land Court – an independent legal umpire – thoroughly considered all of the costs and benefits of this proposed coal expansion.

"It gave a clear and unequivocal recommendation that this mine should not proceed primarily due to impacts on groundwater and good quality Darling Downs agricultural land, which is in the top 1.5 per cent in the State."

Ms Bragg said the decision by the Environment Department was a test for both the Queensland government and for the department – whether they



*Acland farmers and supporters protested against the Acland Stage 3 expansion last year in Brisbane. Photo: Lock the Gate*

would follow independent and transparent Court analysis of evidence.

### Last-minute secret submissions

There were concerns the government could have been persuaded by New Acland Coal's new groundwater work, which the government allowed to be provided in a last-minute submissions process behind closed doors.

"Despite today's decision, the strain of uncertainty on our clients and other community objectors continues. New Acland Coal has applied for judicial review of the Land Court's decision, which could in turn invalidate the Department's decision," Ms Bragg said.

Ellie Smith from Lock the Gate Alliance said the decision vindicates everything

local people have worked so hard to protect for the last 10 years – rich farming country, groundwater and the health and wellbeing of their families.

"They have suffered health impacts and severe mental distress as a result of the negative impacts of the existing mine and fears about the expansion.

### Time to end uncertainty

"The important thing now is to end the uncertainty for the community and to permanently protect the Darling Downs from damaging coal mines."

New Acland Coal last year applied for a judicial review of the Land Court decision, and that is still due to be heard for five days from 19 March.

**FFB**

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• P 3: Strong arm tactics in N Queensland

• P 4: Nanna Felicity's Gas Report

# Chief Scientist challenged over CSG

**A health professional from the Northern Rivers NSW, Dr Wayne Somerville, has challenged Chief Scientist Dr Alan Finkel over his views on the safety of unconventional gas.**

Dr Finkel said concerns about unconventional gas extraction, “whether it’s concerns of seismic activity or the unexpected release of methane that’s called fugitive emissions or contamination of aquifers, are rampant through many communities but there’s actually no data to support those concerns.

“There is no easy way to address those concerns because they’ve got the status of urban lore, but that’s a clear case where the evidence and beliefs are out of sync.”

The comments were made during an ABC Big Ideas podcast last September.

## Wrong, incorrect, mistaken

Dr Somerville wrote to Dr Finkel in early January, saying: “You are wrong that there is no data to support concerns about seismic activity, fugitive emissions, and aquifer contamination associated with unconventional gas fields.

“You are incorrect that there is ‘no easy way to address those concerns’. And you are mistaken to suggest that concerned citizens are unscientific, prone to ‘wiki net’ thinking, and under the influence of ‘urban lore’.”

Dr Somerville says unconventional gas fields are assumed to be safe despite the lack of any evidence that they are.

“Benefits for gas field industrialisation are claimed, with no analysis of costs. The risk being managed is not that gas mining might harm people and the environment. Rather, the aim is to protect company profits and government revenue.

“The danger the industry fears is that they might lose their social license to operate. They extend their duty of care only to themselves and their shareholders. And they misapply the ‘burden of proof’.”

He said there can be no doubt that industrialising previously rural landscapes with vast unconventional gas fields has significant impacts on human, water, air, and soil systems.

“For this industry, an evidence-based demonstration of safety would once have been a straight-forward process. Companies and regulatory authorities had only to collect baseline health and

environmental data before drilling began, and compare this to data obtained after the gas fields were operating.

“And even if they failed to collect baseline measures, they could have obtained data from subsequent years to use for comparison and to correlate with the growth of the gas field.

## No evidence that gasfields are safe

“But they never did this. Consequently, they have no evidence that their operations are safe.”

Dr Somerville has provided Dr Finkel with a number of scientific references to issues including: the association between the unconventional gas mining and seismic activity; aquifer contamination; climate destabilisation; and fugitive emissions.

“The paucity of scientific findings regarding the impacts of unconventional gas mining does not indicate that there is no significant risk worth considering. Rather, the lack of data reflects a systematic failure of regulatory authorities and gas mining companies to properly manage risks and undertake evidence-based research,” he said.

“I want to do what I can to counter the damaging effects of both your claim as Australia’s Chief Scientist that there is no data to support concerns about the adverse impacts of unconventional gas mining, and your portrayal of decent, concerned citizens as irrational and unscientific.”

Dr Finkel’s office acknowledged receipt of the correspondence and wrote that their policy was to respond to all e-mails within a month. By mid-February, neither Dr Finkel nor his office had replied.

## Public discussion needed

Hoping to facilitate a much-needed public discussion of these matters, Dr Somerville has now written to Australia’s state-based Chief Scientists; politicians; Paul Barclay, the host of ABC’s Big Ideas program; organisations; and groups of concerned citizens.

## References

Dr Somerville provided the following references to harmful consequences of unconventional gas mining:

- Kuchment, A. (2016). Drilling for Earthquakes. *Scientific American*, July, p 42 - 49.
- Weingarten, M., et. al. (2015). High-Rate



Dr Wayne Somerville. Photo: supplied

injection is associated with the increase in US mid-continent seismicity. *Science*, V 348, June, pages 1336-1340.

- Maher, D., Santos, I., & Tait, D. 2014. Mapping methane and carbon dioxide concentrations and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values in the atmosphere of two Australian coal seam gas fields. *Water, Air, & Soil Pollution*, 225, 2216.
- Tait, D., Santos, I., Maher, D., Cyronak, T., and Davis, R. 2013. Enrichment of Radon and Carbon Dioxide in the Open Atmosphere of an Australian Coal Seam Gas Field. *Environmental Science and Technology*, 47, 3099–3104.
- Turner, A., Jacob, D., Benmergui, J., Wofsy, S., Maasackers, J., Butz, A., Hasekamp, O., & Biraud, S. 2016. A large increase in U.S. methane emissions over the past decade inferred from satellite data and surface observations. *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 43, 2218–2224.
- Santos, I., Maher, D., & Tait, D. 2014. Science and coal seam gas – a case of the tortoise and the hare? *The Conversation*. 8 December. <https://theconversation.com/science-and-coal-seam-gas-a-case-of-the-tortoise-and-the-hare-35100> 1/3
- Reference: Lavoie, T., Shepson, P., Gore, C., Stirm, B., Kaeser, R., Wulle, B., Lyon, D. and Rudek, J. 2017. Assessing the Methane Emissions from Natural Gas-Fired Power Plants and Oil Refineries. *Environ. Sci. Technol.*, 51, 3373–3381.
- Reference: Worden, J., Bloom, A., Pandey, S., Jiang, Z., Worden, H., Walker, T., Houweling, S., Röckmann, T. 2017. Reduced biomass burning emissions reconcile conflicting estimates of the post-2006 atmospheric methane budget. *Nature Communications*, 8: 2227.

**– Wayne Somerville is a clinical psychologist from Kyogle, NSW**



# Whitsunday Councillor Mike Brunker using strong arm tactics to incite violence

*Ex-coal miner, failed Queensland Labor candidate, ex-CFMEU representative and current pro-Adani Whitsunday Shire Councillor Mike Brunker has been inciting violence against Stop Adani defenders in regional media.*

He has been saying that it was a 'matter of time' before there was violence at Adani protests and that he 'wouldn't be surprised if protesters got a clipping'.

There are reports of a local group calling themselves the Protestor Removal Group setting up in the area who say they 'monitor' any one who disagrees with the Adani mine.

Far North Knitting Nanna Purl Stockingstitch who recently visited Collinsville said, "There appears to be a pattern of behaviour emerging in state and local government politicians in the Whitsunday area with both George Christensen and Mike Brunker inciting violence toward environmentalists in recent times."

## Plain old-fashioned wrong

"I thought inciting violence was illegal in Australia, the fact this has happened in the public domain in newspapers and digital media is plain old-fashioned wrong," Nanna Purl said.

Cr Brunker demonstrated his allegiance to Adani in 2016 when he moved a motion that Whitsunday Mayor Willcox immediately contact Adani chiefs and offer a parcel of land 'free of charge or via a peppercorn lease' on council-owned land in Bowen, and again when he supported a \$10,000 tax-payer funded trip for Willcox on the Queensland Premier's Adani delegation to India in March 2017.

Meanwhile, with the median house price currently at \$77,500 in Collinsville and unemployment at 12.6% in the 2016 census, Fly In Fly Out workers' camps are being set up outside of the community, while many community houses stand empty.

After a visit to Collinsville in January, Nanna Purl said, "They are flying workers in from down south and housing them at camps, so exactly where are these promised local jobs going to go?"

"It is almost as if they would prefer it if Collinsville just went away."

Mike Brunker has also celebrated another nine planned coal mines that



*Nanna Margie (left) and Nanna Purl (right) on the job. Photo: supplied*

are 'quietly getting on with business' in the Galilee Basin and says the Adani project is 'only one chapter in a bigger jobs story', without mention of the 69,000 Great Barrier Reef jobs dependent on the mines not going ahead.

Nanna Purl said, "Adani is the Trojan Horse for much bigger things planned for the Galilee Basin – imagine the climate change impacts if they all go ahead."

A Queensland Crime and Corruption Commission into misuse of funds following Cyclone Larry found the Whitsunday Council, when Brunker was mayor, to be incompetent but not criminal – I think by inciting violence, he just crossed that line.

*– MaryBeth Gundrum  
aka Nanna Purl Stockingstitch*

• See news items P 7-8

*The infamous George Christensen Facebook post. Mr Christensen is unapologetic, saying anti-Adani protesters are 'acting illegally' and endangering lives.*



## News this week

Barnaby Joyce's affairs dominated media this week, with many people more concerned about the cover-up than the actual **beetrooting**.

Barnaby's **conflicts of interest**, such as his properties near proposed gasfields at Gwabegar received some attention.

In north Queensland, the *Townsville Bulletin* gave lots of space to threats against **anti-Adani protesters**.

Mike Brunker suggested they 'go back to Bondi', and others called them 'vermin', wanted to put them on a boat out to the ocean, and said things 'could get physical'.

Meanwhile Stop Adani's **Ben Penning**s reported **100 death threats** to police.

As **Labor** went **cold** on support for Adani's mine, some Queenslanders fumed that **privileged 'greenies'** in the Melbourne electorate of Batman were ripping away job opportunities from the economically depressed north.

The **10,000 zombie jobs** are still a thing up there, with local media failing to point out the likely jobs are only 1,464 over a 30-year time span.

There was an alarming development in NSW, when a **police squad** tailed a **Lock the Gate** bus around the Hunter valley.

The bus took Sydney and Newcastle supporters to visit **mining-affected communities** in Bulga, Camberwell, Muswellbrook, Wollar and Bylong.

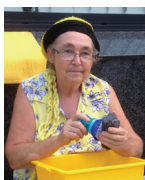
Four police vehicles spent the entire weekend monitoring the group in case they undertook any form of **protest**.

Civil liberties advocates and environmentalists said the police presence raised disturbing questions about how authorities viewed areas reduced to little more than heavy industrial mining districts, where the few remaining residents are seen as **potential troublemakers** for speaking out.

It is well worth clicking the link on page 8 to read Joanne McCarthy's long *Newcastle Herald* story on the incident.

On the gas front, Daniel Pedersen in *The Land* (see page 9) grilled **APA** over its proposed **pipeline**.

## NANNA FELICITY'S **GAS REPORT**



*While in Adelaide recently, we managed some networking with my friend Pinkie the lone Adelaide Knitting Nanna Against Gas.*

We sat outside the Santos office in Adelaide with her – she does it every week! She needs company.

People in Adelaide are asleep, and don't realise the danger of letting their government assist in drilling for gas in the Limestone Coast region. Currently at Penola, the gas is flaring on total fire ban days right next to a pine forest!

I chanced upon an acquaintance in Casino the other day. He had lived in that area years ago. He told me that water enters at the top of the limestone shelf further up the country and takes 400 years to filter through to the coast, where it comes up on the beach as pure, drinkable water.

Drilling in this area will almost certainly destroy the limestone layer, leaving the farmers of South East South Australia waterless.

This area is full of unknown volcanic holes in the limestone, with sink holes suddenly appearing. In some places the rock feels warm – Mt Gambier is an old volcano. The region sits on a fault line.

What madness makes the government give grants to carry out gas searches there!

We took advantage of the Adelaide visit to meet with my friends in the Limestone Coast Protection Alliance, Knitting Nannas Marcia and Sue, and heard the same sickening story – no one is listening.

On the way home we passed through Lismore, Victoria, where they have heard of Knitting Nannas.

In Tocumwal the lovely motel lady hadn't heard of us, but was keen to hear the anti-gas message.

The 'one step forward, two steps back' dance is happening so fast we are spinning.

New information comes in each day, of our organisations protecting the environment and representing farmers and others on the land having a win in court, and the government or big mining companies stepping up and reversing the decisions.

# Stand up and reclaim this country before it is too late!



*The Limestone Coast, SA, needs protection from gas exploration. Photo: SA Tourism*

There are brave young people in Adani's proposed mining country coming from all over Australia to lock on to rail and mining equipment, in the summer heat. They aim to slow down the construction of the rail line proposed to cart off Australian coal to India.

The few people up north jumping up and down, shouting that this will cost many jobs, need to be reminded that allowing the coal mine to proceed will cost the jobs of farmers (and food production), and all the shops, schools and businesses that support them.

Add to that the hospitality industry, because no-one will want to be a tourist on a dead Great Barrier Reef!

### **Tamworth hears from Pilliga protectors**

I hear you ask, 'What were you doing at the Tamworth office of Barnaby Joyce, our federal MP and Deputy Prime Minister?'

I was with a contingent of Lismore Knitting Nannas invited to join some of the locals to knit booties outside his office for his expected love child.

We were with around 20 representing Lock the Gate, Protect the Pilliga, NSW Gas Ban and other Knitting Nannas who had travelled from afar. We listened to the handful of people who live and breathe to protect the Pilliga.

It makes your heart bleed, then it makes you want to go and blow something up – but this is a peaceful protest. The emotion is unbelievable, listening to people who are giving up their lives, their very sanity, to try and save a country for people who won't get off their backsides and help.

The Pilliga Forest already has test wells and roadways pushed through in anticipation of approval that hasn't yet been given! There have been horrific chemical spills, before the 850 wells they want to put in.

Santos, a SA company, has declared they will go ahead regardless and build the fly-in fly-out (FIFO) camps for hundreds of workers (few locals). FIFO workers bring nothing to build the local economy, and themselves suffer from work-related illnesses, mental problems and alcoholism, because of their work and social environment.

It is heartening to see events such as the Coonamble farmers standing against the APA company, that considers they have a right to just wander on to people's land to check out the route for their gas pipeline.

Imagine the problems with drilling, chemical leaks, radio-active material and the contaminated water that rises from the gas seams – there goes a quarter of Australia's water for hundreds of years.

Our government stands to approve all this.

Wake up people, it is time to stand up and reclaim this country!

### **Tell Santos to piss off**

Ring up your politicians and tell them you want a gas free state. Tell the premier to tell Santos to piss off – more politely than that, perhaps. Take action!

**– Felicity Cahill**

*Reprinted from Drake Village Voice*



# In the news this week:

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 22,000 words of news for your convenience. Click on the [links](#) to view original articles. (\$ = subscription may be required)

## THE ADANI SAGA

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-02-12/palaszczuk-skirts-around-question-of-labor-support-for-adani/9424536>

### Palaszczuk skirts around question of Labor support for Adani

Leonie Mellor & Matt Wordsworth, ABC, 13/02/2018

Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk is continuing to back away from wholehearted endorsement of Adani's Galilee Basin coal mine plans in central Queensland.

Speaking to the ABC on Monday night, she repeated her position that Adani's Carmichael project had to stack up financially on its own and that no taxpayer dollars would be spent on building a Galilee Basin rail line.

Her latest comments come after Ms Palaszczuk urged the company to demonstrate to Queenslanders that they were meeting their deadlines on the project.

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/go-back-to-bondi-adani-protester-given-no-sympathy/news-story/80800da2af67baec585f0c8b71478d8c>

### "Go back to Bondi" - Adani protester given no sympathy

Sam Bidey, Townsville Bulletin, 14/02/2018

A Whitsunday councillor says Adani protesters are glorifying criminal activity in the wake of an activist boasting about being arrested in a Sydney newspaper.

Sydney student Nicholas Avery and four others were arrested on January 12 after locking on to a conveyor at the Abbot Point coal terminal.

Speaking with the *Bulletin* after appearing in court for a mention over the incident in Bowen yesterday, Mr Avery said he was ready for the police tactics. Whitsunday Regional councillor Mike Brunker yesterday said he had no sympathy for Mr Avery.

"If he doesn't like the way he's been treated by the coppers, just go back to Bondi and sit on the beach," he said. \$



Nic Avery locked on at Adani's Abbot Point coal terminal and wrote about his experience in *The Saturday Paper*. Photo: Frontline Action on Coal

[http://lnk.edition.crikey.com.au/1/AuU2ZpYYmLQvwy-F585YHHFM?utm\\_source=TractionNext&utm\\_medium=E-mail&utm\\_campaign=Insider-Subscribe-140218](http://lnk.edition.crikey.com.au/1/AuU2ZpYYmLQvwy-F585YHHFM?utm_source=TractionNext&utm_medium=E-mail&utm_campaign=Insider-Subscribe-140218)

### The political cost of climate flip-flopping for fickle polities

John Quiggin, Crikey, 14/02/2018

The full development and extraction of the coal deposits in the Galilee Basin would be an environmental disaster; cancelling out all the efforts Australia has made to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. On the other hand, Adani has promised jobs in a region where they are in short supply, and royalties revenue to a government that is chronically short of cash.

These claims aren't credible.

At both state and federal levels, Labor has sought to walk a tightrope on the issue, arguing that the project should proceed if it is economically viable, while avoiding offering public financial support.

With the announcement of the Batman byelection, it is now federal Labor's turn to make a choice. Opposition Leader Shorten has clearly signalled the withdrawal of support for the project. The only question is whether he will match the Green position of outright opposition.

More importantly, perhaps, Shorten

has announced that, regardless of the outcome with Adani, Labor will announce a jobs package for north Queensland. There is ample evidence that the financial support sought by Adani and Aurizon could generate more jobs if it were allocated to more sustainable projects. \$

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/feb/15/labor-shouldnt-toughen-its-stance-on-adani-coalmine-cfmeu-head-warns>

### Labor shouldn't toughen its stance on Adani coalmine, CFMEU head warns

Katharine Murphy, *The Guardian*, 15/02/2018

The mining union says there is no need for Labor to toughen its stance on the controversial Adani coalmine, warning there is no point in winning the Melbourne seat of Batman while losing seats in central Queensland.

The union leader expressed scepticism about whether the Adani project would ultimately proceed but he said if it did, the union would seek to make an agreement with the company.

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<https://www.reuters.com/article/asia-coal-coaltrans-adani-ent/indias-adani-looking-for-foreign-coal-mines-despite-challenges-in-australia-idUSL4N1Q44TF>

## India's Adani looking for foreign coal mines despite challenges in Australia

*Sudarshan Varadhan, Reuters, 14/02/2018*

Indian resources conglomerate Adani Enterprises Ltd is looking to buy mines in countries such as Indonesia, a company executive told Reuters on Wednesday, despite its struggles to develop a controversial coal project in Australia.

"We have a mine in Indonesia, and we are looking for more options there," Rajendra Singh, chief operating officer of Adani's coal trading business, said on the sidelines of the Coaltrans India conference in the coastal town of Bambolim in Goa state.

"We're also keeping our eyes open for options in other areas like south African countries, countries like Russia."

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/local-roadblocks-so-adani-now-on-worldwide-hunt-for-coal/news-story/344e5c4f277064a2bfda264a386b3832>

## Local roadblocks, so Adani now on worldwide hunt for coal

*John McCarthy, Courier-Mail, 16/02/2018*

Global infrastructure company Adani is scouting the world looking for coal, as its Carmichael megamine in central Queensland remains without financing and faces a growing tide of environmental and political opposition.

Tensions between the State Government and the industry are also increasing after the rejection this week of environmental approval for the Acland coal mine expansion in southeast Queensland.

The decision has cost the company \$158 million so far as investors sold off the stock in the past two days. \$

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/federal-court-dismissed-antiadani-traditional-owners-application-to-appeal-injunction-ruling/news-story/b468a67509c46eabbd895f75da222078>

## Federal Court dismissed anti-Adani Traditional Owners' application to appeal injunction ruling

*Clare Armstrong, Townsville Bulletin, 06/02/2018*

The Federal Court has dismissed another attempt to block Adani Australia's registration of an indigenous land use agreement to secure the Carmichael mine project.

Members of the Wangan and Jagalingou (W&J) native title claimant group had sought to appeal the court's decision to dismiss an application to

extend an interim injunction granted in December.

The court dismissed the application this month and denied an appeal yesterday. \$

[http://www.afr.com/opinion/columnists/are-we-two-societies-compare-batman-with-dawson-20180214-h0w2i6utm\\_source=TractionNext&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_campaign=Insider-Subscribe-160218](http://www.afr.com/opinion/columnists/are-we-two-societies-compare-batman-with-dawson-20180214-h0w2i6utm_source=TractionNext&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Insider-Subscribe-160218)

## Is Labor's Adani opposition about winning votes in Batman byelection?

*Brendan Pearson, AFR, 14/02/2018*

It is worth noting that although the electors of Dawson have had less education, enjoy fewer public services and are less well-paid, they are more likely to engage in voluntary work in their community.

Given the tough economic circumstances they face and the economic promise the Adani project offers, there is genuine disbelief in central and northern Queensland at the hostility to the project in parts of southern Australia.

For those in Batman, not only is the anti-Adani view popular and socially reinforcing, there are no adverse consequences in terms of impact on their living standards.

*Brendan Pearson is the former chief executive of the Minerals Council of Australia.*

[http://lnk.edition.crikey.com.au/1/Au7iFjai9mDEtgN8FXyiV8?utm\\_source=TractionNext&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_campaign=Insider-Subscribe-160218](http://lnk.edition.crikey.com.au/1/Au7iFjai9mDEtgN8FXyiV8?utm_source=TractionNext&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Insider-Subscribe-160218)

## Rundle: culture warrior Brendan Pearson lobs fizzers at antiAdani hipsters

*Guy Rundle, Crikey, 16/02/2018*

With Labor turning against Adani (kinda, sorta), supporters of the beleaguered, cash-gouging proposed environmental catastrophe of the Carmichael mine, have swung to its defence ... Brendan Pearson was quick out of the drop-cage in an AFR piece on Thursday.

Pearson is former CEO of the Minerals Council of Australia ... coal lobby ... now free to do a little culture warring, freelance. Pearson compared the electorates of Batman (inner-city Melbourne) and Dawson (coastal Queensland, south of Townsville), and damned the former for opposing the Adani Carmichael coalmine.

The piece was a masterpiece of bad reasoning, of course. Indeed, Pearson has been denounced by the AFR itself (of which he is an alumnus) for spruiking "fatuous drivel" about the long-term viability of coal. But the op-ed section published him anyway. \$

<https://theconversation.com/latest-twist-in-the-adani-saga-reveals-shortcomings-in-environmental-approvals-91821>

## Latest twist in the Adani saga reveals shortcomings in environmental approvals

*Samantha Hepburn, The Conversation, 15/02/2018*

It was reported this week that the federal Environment Department declined to prosecute Adani for failing to disclose that its Australian chief executive, Jeyakumar Janakaraj, was formerly the director of operations at a Zambian copper mine when it discharged toxic pollutants into a major river.

The revelations come as Adani faces down the Queensland government in the planning and environment court, over allegations the company concealed the full amount of coal-laden water discharged into the fragile Caley Valley Wetlands last year.

These concerns highlight some fundamental problems with the existing regulatory framework ... for land impacted by mining projects.

In this instance, the environmental conditions have provided no substantive protection or utility. They have simply functioned as a convenient fig leaf for both Adani and the government.

Environmental conditions are imposed with the aim of managing the risk of environmental degradation by mining projects. However, their enforcement is too often mired by inadequate and opaque enforcement and oversight procedures, a lack of transparency and insufficient public accountability.

*Samantha Hepburn is Director of the Centre for Energy and Natural Resources Law, Deakin Law School, Deakin University.*

<http://www.afr.com/news/politics/adani-to-still-receive-special-royalty-deal-from-the-qld-government-20180214-h0w29k>

## Adani to still receive special royalty deal from the Qld government

*Mark Ludlow, AFR, 14/02/2018*

The Palaszczuk Labor government will still offer a generous royalty deal for Indian company Adani's mega-mine in the Galilee Basin if it proceeds, despite saying it was opposed to any special treatment or taxpayer funding for the controversial project.

The new royalty scheme - to apply to all new projects in the Galilee Basin, Surat Basin and the north-west minerals province near Mt Isa - allows a deferral of mine royalties for the first four years of a project, before being ramped up after the fifth year.



<https://independentaustalia.net/environment/environment-display/will-adani-go-down-like-gunns.11205>

## The power and the folly: will Adani go down like Gunns?

*Peter Henning, Independent Australia, 16/02/2018*

It is interesting to compare the proposed Adani coal mining project in the Rockhampton hinterland in Queensland with the Gunns pulp mill proposal in Tasmania a decade ago. This is because the comparison sheds light on the way that the political system operates in Australia. A system that subverts the public interest in transferring control of extensive land and water resources to powerful corporate profiteers and rent seekers at the expense of all other social, economic and environmental considerations. ...

Most interesting of all is how grass roots opposition – community based rather than aligned with political parties – have been crucial players influencing banks and private investors. It will be equally as fascinating to see how that dynamic – exemplified by community-based opposition to the pulp mill, which retained a distinctive voice separate to and different from the mainstream Lab-Lib-Greens – will continue to play out in the future.

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/stop-adani-is-ben-pennings-is-controversial-mining-giants-public-enemy-no1/news-story/8e598ddc7fcb31a4c08d40e989a2756a>

## Stop Adani's Ben Pennings is controversial mining giant's public enemy No.1

*Peter Michael, The Courier-Mail, 18/02/2018*

Meet public/Adani enemy number one. He's had 100 death threats, blocked 1000 Facebook trolls, and has twice been roughed up by security.

Stop Adani's Ben Pennings, an unemployed father-of-four, now believes he's the target of "hate groups" and "dark arts" by the Indian mining giant – and on Friday he filed a complaint with Queensland Police. \$

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/national/mp-george-christensen-slammed-over-sick-gun-photo/news-story/8b-c6481079dd09105ddd586bb2652e5c>

## MP George Christensen slammed over sick gun photo

*Staff Writer, News Corp, 18/02/2018*

George Christensen has been reported to police by a Queensland environmental activist after the outspoken Nationals MP posted a photo of himself with a handgun on social media.

Just days after the horrific Florida



## Meet Adani's latest public enemy No. 1

MEET public/Adani enemy number one.

[COURIERMAIL.COM.AU](http://COURIERMAIL.COM.AU)

*Ben Pennings, featured in News Corp papers, has reported over 100 death threats to police – including an implied threat from MP George Christensen.*

high school massacre, Nationals MP Christensen posted a mock image of himself appearing to point a gun at Greens voters.

In a homage to Clint Eastwood's Dirty Harry, Christensen added the caption "You gotta ask yourself, do you feel lucky, greenie punks?"

However Stop Adani's Ben Pennings said today Mr Christensen was an "appalling example" to his constituents and "threats of physical violence to peaceful protesters are particularly unacceptable".

Mr Pennings said he'd added Mr Christensen's post to a complaint he filed on Thursday with Queensland police after receiving over 100 death threats online.

<https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/politics/federal/nationals-mp-george-christensen-photo-reported-to-queensland-police-20180218-p4z0r3.html>

## Nationals MP George Christensen photo reported to Queensland police

*Ed Jackson, Brisbane Times, 18/02/2018*

George Christensen has been reported to police by a Queensland environmental activist after the outspoken Nationals MP posted a photo of himself with a handgun on social media.

Mr Christensen on Saturday posted a photo of himself aiming a gun to Facebook with a post saying "You gotta ask yourself, do you feel lucky, greenie punks?"

Greens Senator Sarah Hanson-Young took to Twitter following Mr Chris-

tensen's post to suggest the Member for Dawson should be sacked.

"A Member of Parliament inciting violence against a group of voters should be a sackable offence," Senator Hanson-Young wrote.

"If the leader of the Nationals had any class he'd sack him."

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/photo-of-nationals-mp-george-christensen-with-a-gun-reported-to-police-20180218-p4z0r3.html>

## Photo of Nationals MP George Christensen with a gun reported to police

*Neelima Choahan, SMH, 18/02/2018*

Controversial Queensland MP George Christensen has been reported to police after posing with a handgun on social media.

In response to questions about the post on Sunday, Mr Christensen texted: "Haven't you got real news to report about at Fairfax?"

In the past, the Nationals MP has called for the burqa to be banned in public, the death penalty to be reintroduced for terrorists who kill Australian citizens and for ice traffickers to be caned.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-02-18/facebook-post-mp-george-christensen-feel-lucky-greenie-punks/9459476>

## George Christensen under fire over 'greenie punks' Facebook post

*Lily Nothling, ABC, 18/02/2018*

Nationals MP George Christensen has been reported to police over a social

media post in which he uploaded an image of himself holding a gun, accompanied by a caption appearing to threaten “greenie punks”.

On Saturday, Mr Christensen posted a photo to Facebook of himself with a rifle at a Mackay shooting range, along with the caption “shooting is a great sport”.

“Shooters don’t deserve to be demonised like they are by the media and the Left — gun owners aren’t criminals,” Mr Christensen wrote.

In the comment section of the post, Mr Christensen uploaded a second photo of himself aiming a handgun, along with the caption: “You gotta ask yourself, do you feel lucky, greenie punks?”

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/adani-reveals-11500-people-have-registered-interest-in-jobs-on-the-carmichael-coal-mine/news-story/3c41109d10f319e6d738c4813d982a4>

### **Adani reveals 11,500 people have registered interest in jobs on the Carmichael coal mine**

*Sam Bidey, Townsville Bulletin, 19/02/2018*

Thousands of people want to work for Adani.

To date 11,500 people have registered interest in jobs on the Carmichael coal mine, Adani revealed yesterday. \$

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/collinsville-closest-township-to-adanis-north-queensland-illegal-base-camp-nudja/news-story/b4611ba0532cc3458b7048d5aa503f4d>

### **Collinsville closest township to Adani’s North Queensland illegal base “Camp Nudja”**

*Sam Bidey, Townsville Bulletin, 19/02/2018*

A north Queensland community is fed up with Adani protesters disrespecting locals and spruiking anti-coal messages in a town built on mining.

Adani protesters have frequented the town in recent months as the community is the closest township to their North Queensland base – an allegedly illegal camp set up at a property near the Bogie River, which activists have dubbed “Camp Nudja”.

Whitsunday councillor Peter Ramage said activists had worn out their welcome.

“It could get physical ... that’s the fear in the back of some people’s minds.”

One local, who asked not to be named fearing being targeted, labelled the protesters “vermin”, while another said they should be “put on a boat and sent out into the ocean”.

The future of Camp Nudja, from where activist group Frontline Action on Coal

has been sharing photographs showing campers establishing gardens, remains in doubt.

Whitsunday Regional Council last month issued a show cause notice at the property for operating a land use without an appropriate development permit. \$

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/antiadani-activists-to-crash-bill-shortens-townsville-trip/news-story/15b539a52750815b6fe5d49d66335936>

### **Anti-Adani activists to crash Bill Shorten’s Townsville trip**

*Sam Bidey, Townsville Bulletin, 19/02/2018*

Coal protesters plan to disrupt Labor leader Bill Shorten’s trip to Townsville today.

Mr Shorten will make an announcement at Port of Townsville and attend a community meeting with Herbert MP Cathy O’Toole at Currajong State School. \$

## **COAL ROCKS ON**

<http://www.theherald.com.au/story/5220991/police-state-questions-after-police-monitor-an-upper-hunter-guided-tour-bus/?cs=305>

### **The NSW Government’s anti-protest laws challenged after police target a Lock the Gate bus**

*Joanne McCarthy, Newcastle Herald, 19/02/2018*

Four police vehicles sat in an isolated carpark for more than 90 minutes on February 4 carrying police waiting for a protest that never happened, while monitoring people meeting Hunter mining-affected communities over a weekend.

Now the NSW Government faces calls to explain the link between multinational mining companies buying up large swathes of the Upper Hunter, including villages complete with churches and businesses, and the potential criminalising of activities by people still living there or visiting.

Police “monitored the behaviour” of people on a Lock the Gate bus tour for hours on February 3 and 4 after deciding it was a “protest group”, and despite Lock the Gate publicising the event as a chance for Sydney and Newcastle supporters to meet mining-affected communities over meals at Bulga, Camberwell, Muswellbrook, Wollar and Bylong.

NSW Police this week defended the diversion of considerable resources to follow the Lock the Gate bus on February 3 and 4, including four police vehicles waiting at The Drip gorge carpark between Denman and Mudgee

for more than 90 minutes while people on the tour walked into the gorge.

Police provided no evidence to back a description of people on the bus as “protesters” taking part in a “protest group”.

But NSW Council for Civil Liberties vice president Pauline Wright, Greens Justice spokesman and barrister David Shoebridge, Environmental Justice Australia spokesman James Whelan and Lock the Gate said the police presence raised disturbing questions about how authorities viewed areas reduced to little more than heavy industrial mining districts, where the few remaining residents are seen as potential troublemakers for speaking out.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-02-13/queensland-government-gives-acland-coal-mine-second-chance/9417474>

### **New Acland Coal mine expansion given second chance by Queensland Government**

*Peter McCutcheon, ABC, 13/02/2018*

Queensland’s Environment Department has thrown embattled miner New Acland Coal a lifeline, despite its historic loss in the Land Court last year.

The court recommended against the coal mine’s expansion into agricultural land on Queensland’s Darling Downs, mainly because of uncertainty as to how it would affect long-term groundwater supplies.

But 7.30 has learned that despite the court’s ruling, the Environment Department invited New Acland Coal to submit new water modelling late last year.

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/crack-in-moura-road-after-anglo-american-mine-explosion/news-story/6d9e089cccd6f1d686d22d3c16254be7>

### **Crack in Moura road after Anglo American mine explosion**

*Vanessa Jarrett, Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, 15/02/2018*

Photos have emerged from Anglo American that depicts the true extent of the Gibihi Rd damage.

Gibihi Road has been closed since November following a routine blast when cracking first appeared on the road.

Anglo American said, “The Gibihi Road failure was unexpected and investigation into the cause of the incident indicates the circular geotechnical failure is significant and extends between the mine and Gibihi Road.

“The area is extremely unstable and continues to be monitored using a slope stability radar system.” \$





Acland coal mine, Darling Downs, Qld. Photo: Lock the Gate

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/new-acland-mine-expansion-blocked/news-story/597585e4f9415e8c661e7bc86b560192>

### New Acland mine expansion blocked by Queensland government

Michael McKenna, *The Australian*, 14/02/2018

The long-delayed \$900 million expansion of the New Acland coalmine may not go ahead after the Queensland government today refused environmental approval for the project.

The decision was welcomed by environmentalists and some landholders around the mine, on the Darling Downs, near Toowoomba, who have been fighting the expansion for years. New Acland Coal has applied for judicial review of the court's decision, which could invalidate the department's decision, the Environmental Defender's Office said, with a hearing set down for March 19. \$

<https://www.thechronicle.com.au/news/macfarlane-blasts-surprising-new-acland-mine-decis/3335944/>

### Macfarlane blasts 'surprising' New Acland Mine decision

Toowoomba Chronicle, 15/02/2018

Ian Macfarlane, who is now the chief executive of the Queensland Resources Council, took aim at the Department of Environment and Science's decision to refuse to amend the New Acland Mine's proposed stage three environmental authority.

Despite the Land Court recommending the State Government reject the proposed mine last year, Mr Macfarlane claimed the project had passed "rigorous" assessment and urged that the expansion go ahead. \$

<https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/national/queensland/coal-mining-is-in-my-blood-but-acland-isn-t-the-answer-20180216-p4z0mm.html>

### Coal mining is in my blood but Acland isn't the answer

Frank Ashman, *Brisbane Times*, 16/02/2018

There's coal mining in my blood. My grandfather was a miner. But like all things, it has a time and a place. ...

The current mine is already causing us grief. If the expansion were to proceed, it would move three kilometres closer to our property. We're already dealing with fumes from blasting, from dangerous coal dust and from noise.

The social impacts have been severe. I've seen people broken by the mental stress, the uncertainty and the risk that they will lose everything if the expansion goes ahead.

And then there's the risks to our rich farming country, which the Land Court recognised was amongst the best 1.5 per cent of agricultural land in Queensland.

Real people with jobs at the mine will be affected, and I have the greatest sympathy and respect for any workers who will lose employment.

But in this time and this place, we should be able to deliver everything that is needed to find new jobs for those affected.

## GAS, GAS, GAS

<https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/operational-upset-caused-smoky-flaring-at-glmg-tod/3336399/>

### 'Operational upset' caused smoky flaring at GLNG today

Tegan Annette, *Gladstone Observer*, 15/02/2018

AN "operational upset" at the Santos-owned Curtis Island LNG export facility caused increased smoky flaring [15 February].

A company spokesperson said an operational upset at GLNG led to some parts of the plant to automatically shut down. \$

<http://www.theland.com.au/story/5221417/pilliga-battle-heating-up/>

### Coonmable meeting makes clear its determination

Daniel Pedersen, *The Land*, 16/02/2018

If the people of the Pilliga have their say, there will be no gas pipeline across NSW's western slopes.

On Saturday they declared theirs a fight to protect the integrity of the Great Artesian Basin and organisers urged them to begin using the online tag #warforwater

Joe Hill, "Wandaloo", Miles, Queensland, told the crowd how he had stood firm against the company, to the extent a pipeline transporting coal seam gas was re-routed around his property, creating what is known among his supporters as "Joe's bend".

Former investment banker and chief executive of Rothschild Australia Asset Management, Peter Martin, told the meeting the chances of the entire Narrabri Gas Project and associated infrastructure, including the Pilliga pipeline getting off the ground, were slim.

Mr Martin urged the people of the Western Slopes to stick together and use one expert lawyer.

Gamilaroi woman Teresa Trindall, also a nurse, said apparent health problems related to unconventional gas mining had been detailed by the Darling Downs Public Health Unit in 2013. She said farmers and traditional owners had to stick together to defend the country and its water.

As a result of concerns raised at the meeting, The Land concerning: insurance for farmers; the risk of anthrax disease being uncovered; the prospect of the pipeline being duplicated; the implications for national vendor declarations for animals/crops on properties affected by the pipeline.

(Click the link to see APA's answers!)

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<http://www.coonambletimes.com.au/this-is-a-war4water/>

## **"This is a war4water"**

*Coonamble Times, 16/02/2018*

That was the opening statement at a mass gathering at Coonamble Bowling Club on Saturday 10 February that attracted close to five hundred people.

Many said they will "do whatever it takes" to prevent the development of the Santos Pilliga Coal Seam Gas project and the APA Western Slopes Pipeline.

Speakers from within the region included Sally Hunter from Narrabri, Melinda Mills from Tottenham, along with Theresa Stanford from the local Aboriginal community and Coonamble landowner Adam Macrae.

Noticeably absent were the region's state and federal political representatives.

In the crowd was former federal politician Tony Windsor who speculated that the true bounty for Santos was not the coal seam gas within the Pilliga Forest but in the areas to both the east and west.

"The Pilliga is the centre of a very large circle," he told the meeting. "To the east is the Liverpool Plains with the state's largest groundwater reserves and to the west is the most unique water system in the world, the Great Artesian Basin."

## **FOSSIL POLITICS**

<https://independentaustalia.net/politics/politics-display/how-barnaby-joyce-contaminates-my-drinking-water.11197>

### **How Barnaby Joyce contaminates my drinking water**

*Simon Pockley, Independent Australia, 14/02/2018*

Safeguards for the water and environmental values of the Pilliga have been compromised by politicians acting in their own interests.

As Deputy Prime Minister, Joyce lists his property at Gwabegar, west of Narrabri as part of his pecuniary interests. As Leader of the National Party, Joyce received substantial political donations from Santos totalling more than \$80,000, after voting against what was called the "Water Trigger" in an amendment to the [Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act](#). This trigger allowed Federal intervention in a State-based approval process, should water sources be seen to be threatened.

Accusations of a conflict of interest are due primarily to claims that Joyce could personally benefit from

the Turnbull Government's push to develop coal seam gas near the land he owns.

Joyce [proposed](#) that a landowner get one per cent of the wellhead revenue of a CSG well. ... At that metric, a single well would earn a landholder, pre-tax, more than \$200,000 a year, enough to reshape the value of land in marginal areas throughout the Pilliga — like Gwabegar.

One of many reasons why drilling for coal seam gas in the Pilliga is a bad idea, is that the process contaminates and de-pressures the sandstone aquifers from which my spring-fed drinking water rises. Santos has already been fined for several contamination events and has clearly demonstrated that the company cannot manage the risks associated with extracting coal seam gas. All well casings eventually fail and the risks of contaminating the Great Artesian Basin are even greater and far too high to allow such a marginal project to proceed.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/barnaby-joyce-holds-onto-land-he-vowed-to-sell-near-big-gas-project/news-story/9397b0b85f10a0714f1829779bec53db>

### **Barnaby Joyce holds onto land he vowed to sell near big gas project**

*Ben Packham, The Australian, 16/02/2018*

Barnaby Joyce owns land near a coal-seam gas project he promoted as resources minister, despite admitting it could be seen as a conflict of interest and pledging to sell it 4½ years ago.

The land, at Gwabegar in central NSW, is covered by the same petroleum exploration licence as Santos's Narrabri Gas Project, which could supply up to half the state's gas needs for the next 20 years. \$

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-02-15/lock-the-gate-apologises-over-fracking-cover-up-allegations/9448230>

### **Lock The Gate apologises to Origin Energy and fracking inquiry for 'scandalous' allegations**

*Georgia Hitch, ABC, 15/02/2018*

Lock The Gate Alliance has apologised to Origin Energy and the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the NT over allegations it made that the company had been involved in a "cover-up" of information.

But the allegations were rejected by the inquiry's chair, Justice Rachel Pepper, as "scandalous".

<https://www.thechronicle.com.au/news/class-action-against-qld-government-over-linc-prog/3332964/>

### **Class action against Qld Government over Linc 'progressing'**

*Toowoomba Chronicle, 14/02/2018*

A class action against the State Government over its approval and monitoring of the Linc Energy underground coal gasification project is progressing, despite a recent announcement by the Department of Environment and Science removing the Excavation Caution Zone, and Investigation Zone around the site.

Tom Marland, principal of Marland Law, who represents landholders already affected by the ECZ at Hope-lands and Kogan has said that the most recent announcement just adds to the confusion and uncertainty of affected landholders.

Mr Marland said the department had allowed Linc to burn coal seams at shallow depths of about 120 metres over a period of more than seven years without any proper regulatory supervision. \$

<https://www.chinchillanews.com.au/news/expert-raised-contamination-concerns-at-linc-site/3336368/>

### **Expert raised contamination concerns at Linc site**

*John Weekes, NewsRegional, 16/02/2018*

Risks to groundwater triggered the closure of a Linc Energy generator, as an expert warned the company had no real idea about contamination it had caused.

Former Linc employee Dr Gary Love sent company bosses an email in April 2009 about issues at an underground coal gasification site.

Dr Love, who has multiple degrees in geology and groundwater management, proposed a four-stage decommissioning.

Dr Love said he was subject to a "fairly robust" but "healthy level of challenge" because the advice could impact the company's finances.

Earlier in the trial, concrete pumper Robert Arnold said he saw "black tar" seeping up at a the Chinchilla site and raised concerns with the company.

<https://www.centraltelegraph.com.au/news/concern-about-lack-of-knowledge-at-linc-energy-sit/3335483/>

### **Concern about lack of knowledge at Linc Energy site**

*John Weekes, NewsRegional, 15/02/2018*

A geologist and groundwater management expert raised concerns with Linc Energy about a lack of knowledge at



## News this week ... from previous page

the Chinchilla site.

Brisbane District Court heard Dr Gary Love raised concerns about lack of data at an underground coal gasification site.

According to court documents, the concerns about a lack of monitoring were raised in November 2008, three months after the G3 gasifier site was ignited.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/feb/16/itd-be-wonderful-if-the-claims-made-about-carbon-capture-were-true>

### It'd be wonderful if the claims made about carbon capture were true

*Simon Holmes a Court, The Guardian, 16/02/2018*

Last April, Frydenberg visited the newly opened Petra Nova CCS project in Texas. The minister, decked out in the obligatory hi-vis vest and hard hat, yells above the noise that the \$1bn project is "helping to reduce the carbon footprint by some 40%".

It'd be wonderful if it were true.

The only way CCS on coal will ever be built at scale is with a carbon price so high it'd kill the rest of the coal sector. Despite a tweet from the MCA on Thursday that it supported a "market based approach to low-emissions technology", the MCA has form – it would use its dying breath to undermine any real or de facto carbon price. The MCA's support for CCS rings hollow.

*Simon Holmes a Court is senior adviser to the Energy Transition Hub at Melbourne University.*

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/feb/15/barnaby-joyce-and-the-difficulties-avoiding-a-conflict-of-interest>

### Barnaby Joyce and the difficulties avoiding a conflict of interest

*Anne Davies, The Guardian, 15/02/2018*

During his time as agriculture, resources and water minister, Joyce has faced his fair share of scrutiny.

One of the most contentious decisions he made was to [relocate the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority \(APVMA\) to Armidale](#), in the heart of his New England electorate from Canberra.

Its also proved a boon for [Joyce's benefactor Greg Maguire](#), who is pro-

viding Joyce and his new partner, Vikki Campion, with a rent-free townhouse in Armidale.

As the owner of the largest and most upmarket hotel in Armidale, the Powerhouse Hotel, Maguire has seen a steady stream of APVMA employees staying there.

Then there is the land Joyce owns at Gwabegar, near Narrabri, where there are several petroleum exploration licences for coal seam gas held by Santos and others.

Then there is the Inland Rail project, championed by the Nationals as a way of boosting the economies of rural towns along its 1,700km route. Joyce is now infrastructure minister.

According to the most recent maps, dated December 2017, the line would pass south of Gwabegar, within 10km of Joyce's land.

<http://www.smh.com.au/business/mining-and-resources/it-s-make-or-break-time-for-mining-says-rio-tinto-boss-20180216-p4z0lb.html>

### It's make or break time for mining, says Rio Tinto boss

*Darren Gray, SMH, 16/02/2018*

Miners face a "make-or-break situation" and must have a partnership with the communities where they operate, according to the head of global miner Rio Tinto.

Rio's chief executive officer Jean-Sebastien Jacques said, "For us across the industry, I can be direct on this one - it's a make-or-break situation for us. And for us it's two things, one is to protect the existing business that we have today. But the similar element, which is for me even more important, is about the long term future."

"Remember part of the DNA of the mining business is to grow, because the depletion of the mines is a reality, so if we don't grow we're going to shrink and disappear," he says.

Rio Tinto will over the weekend release a new brand campaign that will start in Western Australia. The campaign, which will be predominantly on digital platforms, will eventually go nationwide, and be continued in Canada with Canadian-based content.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/feb/16/south-korea-ahn-hee-jung-on-coal-trade-after-paris-everything-should-change>

### South Korea's Ahn Hee-Jung on coal trade: after Paris 'everything should change'

*Michael Slezak, The Guardian, 16/02/2018*

For a South Korean presidential hopeful, Ahn Hee-Jung is not what you would expect.

On his visit to Australia, which sells more than \$6bn worth of coal to South Korea each year, he has a message for the country and its precious coal exports: the world is changing and coal will soon be history.

Ahn calls on Australia and South Korea to stand together and take leadership in the transition away from coal.

## Inland rail going off-track: NSW Farmers

*NSW Farmers has reacted angrily to a failure by the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) to release statistics and economic modelling justifying their nomination of a preferred route for the inland rail between Narromine and Narrabri.*

Citing 'commercial in confidence', the ARTC claims that data justifying the present route's path through more than 300 farms and the Pilliga gasfields cannot be made publicly available. Instead, the ARTC proposes a secret, closed-door briefing.

NSW Farmers' President, Derek Schoen, said they had sought to engage with the ARTC in good faith but this was being undermined by the agency's failure to be open with stakeholders and landholders.

"Barnaby Joyce, as the minister responsible, must step up to the plate and start demanding greater transparency from the ARTC, an agency of the Australian Government, which he and the Coalition Government hand-picked to deliver this infrastructure project."

**FFB**

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