

# 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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## NSW police use anti-protest laws to monitor community tour group

By Paul Gregoire and Ugur Nedim  
Sydney Criminal Lawyers

*Over a weekend in February, a tour group visiting areas threatened by mining in the Upper Hunter was placed under NSW police surveillance. This apparently unwarranted monitoring – reminiscent of totalitarian regimes like North Korea – seems to be yet another attempt to suppress potential dissent under the Coalition’s anti-protest regime.*

The Lock the Gate tour comprised city-based residents visiting communities and areas impacted by the Hunter coal-mining industry. Promotional material for the tour lists a series of meetings with local residents. And there’s no mention of any plans to protest.

However, NSW police took it upon themselves to label the tour a ‘protest group’ and actively monitor its movements. Convoys of up to four police vehicles were shadowing tour participants for hours on end on both February 3 and 4.

The use of the laws shines a light on the state government’s interests, particularly its pro-mining stance, which is effectively putting residents of, and visitors to, areas that are heavily owned by multinational mining corporations at risk of targeting and even criminal prosecution.

### Occupied territory

Lock the Gate spokesperson Steve Phillips recalls that the tour first



Lock the Gate’s tour of mine-affected communities in the Upper Hunter Valley visited Wollar, where protests have been held in the past. Photo: Lock the Gate

encountered police in Wollar in the far Upper Hunter. “Police vehicles began frequently driving by our tour group, and then a convoy of police vehicles appeared to follow our tour bus as we left Wollar,” he said.

As the group made their way to a nature reserve area in Ulan, known as the Drip, officers followed. “About half a dozen police vehicles, including a police rescue outfit, followed us into the parking lot at the Drip and stayed there for over an hour observing our tour group,” Phillips continued.

The tour organiser said Mudgee police inspector Jeff Boon approached him and asked what the group were up to.

“I told him we were hosting an information tour and observed that there was really no reason for the police to be there,” Mr Phillips told Sydney Criminal Lawyers.

“Nevertheless, the police were waiting for us at our next stop, Bylong,” he added.

NSW police has since stated that it’s appropriate to monitor the “actions of protest groups during planned events.” However, it gave no evidence as to why they labelled those on tour as a protest group.

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• P 2: Bill & Geoff at odds on Adani

• P 3: Nanna Felicity’s gas report

• P 4: The week’s news on coal & gas

## NSW police monitor community group's bus trip – from p 1

### Far from reasonable

NSW Council for Civil Liberties vice president Pauline Wright said that “lawful protest is a right that we have as a democracy.” And even though “there are certain restrictions,” in this case, there was nothing to warrant police having a “reasonable suspicion that there would be any unlawful protest.”

“People should be free to go about lawful activities – like being part of a guided tour – without being subject to police surveillance,” Ms Wright outlined. And she questioned why police resources weren’t being directed towards serious crime, rather than “normal, lawful business.”

According to Ms Wright, there’s no doubt the new anti-protest laws were behind what the police saw “as a reasonable apprehension that a crime might be about to be committed.” And she added that these laws have implications for “people’s ability to have freedom of political communication.”

### Silencing dissent

Back in 2014, then NSW premier Mike Baird told a NSW mining industry dinner that his government was going to “crackdown” on those who choose to break the law when they protest. And he singled out “protesters who unlawfully enter mining sites.”

A little over a year later, the Coalition government followed through with the premier’s promise when it passed a series of harsh anti-protest laws, under the Inclosed Lands, Crimes and Law Enforcement Legislation Amendment (Interference) Bill 2016.

The legislation created the new offence of aggravated unlawful entry on inclosed lands. Section 4B of the Inclosed Land Protection Act 1901 provides that interfering, or attempts to interfere, with the conduct of a business on enclosed land can land a protester with a fine of up to \$5,500.

Under the provisions of the bill, police were provided with additional powers to stop, search, detain, and seize the property of protesters, as well as being given the power to shutdown a peaceful protest if it is obstructing traffic.

And the bill also inserted a definition of mine into section 201 of the Crimes Act 1900, so that the offence of interfering with a mine includes coal seam gas exploration and extraction sites.

This offence carries a maximum penalty of seven years imprisonment.

### The Wilpinjong Three

Bev Smiles, Bruce Hughes and Stephanie Luce are the first people to be up on protesting charges since the laws were changed. In April last year, the three were arrested for protesting outside the Wilpinjong coal mine in Wollar.

The three are up on charges of rendering a road belonging to a mine useless and hindering the working equipment belonging to a mine. These are both offences that carry the penalty of seven years imprisonment.

When the trio appeared at Mudgee Local Court on February 9, the presiding magistrate rejected police claims that the Wollar-Ulan Road, where the defendants were arrested, actually belonged to the mining company.

“They have pleaded not guilty, and are awaiting a judgment on the case,” Mr Phillips explained. “The outcome of that case will be important.” If the three have “the book thrown at them” then it’s likely to discourage the protesting of coal mines in NSW.

### An unconstitutional clampdown

And Ms Wright also warns of the stifling effect that the new anti-protest laws are likely to have upon demonstrations. “People are right to be concerned,” Ms Wright told Sydney Criminal Lawyers. The laws “will have an impact on their decisions as to whether they are going to protest or not.”

The solicitor pointed to last year’s High Court of Australia decision that found parts of the 2014 Tasmanian anti-protest laws were unconstitutional in terms of breaching freedom of political communication. And she added this decision could have implications for the NSW laws.

This attempt to silence protest is something that all citizens should be worried about, Ms Wright concluded. “If we don’t feel that we can stand up and say that we are concerned about an activity... for fear of being charged with a criminal offence for doing so, that is going to have a chilling effect.”

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<https://www.sydneycriminalallawyers.com.au>

## News this week

It’s all about **Bill Shorten** and **Geoff Cousins** this week.

Outgoing **Australian Conservation Foundation** leader, Geoff Cousins, revealed on ABC TV that he had accompanied Bill Shorten on a tour of north Queensland areas that will be impacted by the **Adani** coal mine.

In January, they visited the **Great Barrier Reef**, the **mine location** and adjacent agricultural and environmental areas.

Cousins told the ABC that Shorten had indicated he would **kill off the mine** if Labor wins the next election.

The ACF provided **legal advice** it had commissioned on how that might be done.

However, as Shorten has equivocated over **Labor’s** position since the tour, Cousins went on TV to put him on the spot.

The fallout occupied a huge amount of space, particularly in the **Murdoch press** which consistently spruiks the mine and condemns opponents.

By the end of the week, Shorten had retreated to saying he didn’t support the mine but would not rip up existing agreements with Adani, for fear of creating **sovereign risk**.

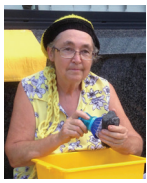
Meanwhile in **Townsville**, the *Townsville Bulletin* fumed about last week’s excellent *Guardian* piece on the mood in the town.

“Another week, another condescending lecture by **smug south-erners** about how we North Queenslanders don’t know what’s good for us” thundered the *Bully*, complaining of a **full-scale kale leaf assault**. The *Bully* is Adani’s biggest advocate.

On the **gas front**, an industry conference in Sydney gave a platform to gasco’s and their supporters.

There were calls for state governments to **drop restrictions** and increase gas exploration and production.

QRC chief Ian Macfarlane derided “anti-fracking witchcraft peddlers” while resources minister Matt Cavan slammed “**voodoo science**” for holding up progress.

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


# Riding the highs and lows of the mining fight

*In the last month, Barnaby Joyce (our MP here in the New England electorate) has gone from disaster to disaster, and even the mainstream press is commenting on his profligacy.*

One would think that we expect our highest representatives, our politicians, to have some morality, but our prime minister has found it necessary to make a rule that his ministers should not have sex with their staff. You have to be kidding! Does that mean it's okay if you aren't a minister, just an ordinary MP?

In the meantime, Malcolm has sent Barney home for a week and told him he's a naughty boy! Wow, it's a good thing a mate of his in Armidale is giving him an apartment rent free or he'd go broke, on the \$hundreds of thousands we pay him. No wonder I am becoming more and more angry!

## A happy note

On a happy note, the appeal by New Hope to approve the Acland Stage 3 mine extension was again denied in court. But we must now rely on the Queensland government not to renege on the deal. Like we must remember in the Northern Rivers: the CSG licenses were not cancelled – they were just bought back by the government.

Being a Knitting Nanna is a lesson in riding the emotional roller coaster of highs and lows.

There are wins such as the euphoria of the outcome of Bentley.

## And low notes

But there are lows like the suicide of George Bender (and others), who could not stand the complicity of the government in the rape and poisoning of his farmland by the gas companies in the name of giving you cheaper gas! (Yeah, ha, ha!)

Approvals for mining mean companies wipe out towns, while they get rich, and the people who have lived there for a few generations lose everything. (I have not forgotten that we, the white people, did the same to the indigenous people here on a much larger scale – another wrong the Nannas are trying to come to terms with).



*Bill Ryan, 96, (holding microphone) has been arrested so many times it has become quite "ho-hum". Photo: Lock the Gate*

According to the north Queensland Labor people, protesters disrupting Adani progress are latte-sipping greenies from Melbourne stuffing up the prospects of thousands of jobs. Have we got news for them!! And if they only knew it, we are saving them from being stuck with huge mortgages after two years or so, on houses they can't sell because the construction jobs in the mines have gone, being replaced by a handful of technicians.

I feel utter respect for those who put themselves on the line to be arrested for what they believe in – 96-year-old veteran Bill Ryan has now been arrested so many times for locking on it has become quite "ho-hum".

## Must-see movie

The Nannas in Lismore had a "secret Nanna business" a preview of Cloud-catcher Media's movie, *The Sacrifice Zone*. A massive effort, put together at considerable cost to the team. They have interviewed people from Tara, Chinchilla and points north, down nearly to Dubbo. The story is the impact of CSG mining on Darling Downs and how it will impact the Pilliga forest and farmers in the area.

You must see it for yourself, and this feature length movie will available free

in a few weeks.

There is already so much information on the poisonous produced water brought up from below the aquifers of the re-charge zone of the Great Artesian Basin. The claim that there will be no accidents, and not a drop of poison will get into the pure GAB water is not credible – there have already been more than 20 spills killing tracts of forest and leaching into waterways that lead to the Murray – Darling.

A projected 117 tonnes of highly toxic salt will be produced per day, and Santos's answer on what happens to this incredibly dangerous stuff: "Oh, we've passed that off to a contractor – their problem!"

The Pilliga is known for the bush fires it sustains. Santos's fire plan: remotely shut down the gas wells (never mind the ever-present leaks) and hightail it out of there, leaving it to the volunteer fire service to control.

The smart RFS guys will refuse – after all, we are just volunteers!! Nothing like wandering through a burning forest and having a gas pocket go up under your feet!

– Felicity Cahill

• Reprinted from *Drake Village Voice*

# In the news this week:

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 37,000 words of news for your convenience. Click on the [links](#) to view original articles. (\$) = subscription may be required

## THE ADANI SAGA

<http://www.afr.com/opinion/columnists/against-adani-youre-against-lifting-the-worlds-poorest-out-of-poverty-20180226-h0wof8>

### Against Adani? You're against lifting the world's poorest out of poverty

Danny Price, AFR, 27/02/2018

This [Adani Mundra] power plant generates electricity for some of the poorest people in the world so they can have lighting to study at night and power for clean water.

Reliable power is also crucial to attract industry so that people can have jobs to lift themselves out of poverty.

Stopping Adani won't mean an end to the difficult political decisions about coal. Confecting reasons why the government should not support Adani will simply kick the can down the political street. Activists against Adani will simply turn their attention to the next development, and so on.

Danny Price is managing director of Frontier Economics. Disclosure: Frontier has advised Adani on Australian regulatory matters.

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/money/finance-news/2018/02/27/adani-coal-mine-energy-poverty/>

### For Adani? There are better ways to help India's poor

Rob Burgess, The New Daily, 27/02/2018

Economist Danny Price copped a fair bit of flak and "plenty of hate mail" on Monday for an [opinion piece](#) in the *Australian Financial Review* headlined 'Against Adani? You're against lifting the world's poorest out of poverty'.

Mr Price doesn't actually make that argument in the article – the headline was written by the paper's editors – but he does argue that Australian coal is the cheapest way to cater to energy-hungry Indians in the province of Gujarat.

But ... a detailed study of energy supply in India in 2015 entitled *Rural electrification in India: Galilee Basin coal versus decentralised renewable energy micro grids ...* found that for the rural poor in Bihar state – another very impoverished region – renewable power micro-grids were a cheaper and quicker way to provide basic services – lighting, refrigeration, water pumps



Adani's exploration camp site at the proposed Carmichael Mine. Photo: Lock the Gate

and sewage pumps for basic sanitation.

The technology that makes up micro-grids is not only cheap, and getting cheaper, but they are technologies that can be controlled by villagers themselves. ...

No wonder the banks see Adani's approach to poverty alleviation as too risky to touch.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-02-27/geoff-cousins-accuses-bill-shorten-of-renegeing-on-adani-deal/9490238>

### Adani mine licence could be revoked under Labor government, Geoff Cousins says Bill Shorten told him

Businessman and environmentalist Geoff Cousins says Opposition Leader Bill Shorten told him that if Labor wins government it could revoke the Adani mine licence.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/feb/27/labor-adani-coalmine-licence-geoff-cousins>

### Labor prepared to revoke Adani coalmine licence if elected, says Cousins

Katharine Murphy, The Guardian, 28/02/2018

Businessman and environmentalist

Geoff Cousins says Bill Shorten gave him clear and repeated signals that Labor intended to harden its opposition to the controversial Adani coalmine, including promising to revoke the licence for the project if the ALP won the next federal election.

Cousins, a former president of the Australian Conservation Foundation, who [accompanied Shorten to north Queensland in January](#) to explore the various policy options for the Adani project, used a television interview on Tuesday night to publicly blast him for a lack of leadership.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/geoff-cousins-says-labor-leader-bill-shorten-vowed-to-revoke-adani-mine-licence-if-labor-win-election/news-story/697cbdae70fd9ae492aabf5cbb3eabbd>

### Geoff Cousins says Labor leader Bill Shorten vowed to revoke Adani mine licence if Labor win election

Rhian Deutrom & Sarah Elks, The Australian, 28/02/2018

Millionaire businessman and environmentalist Geoff Cousins has revealed private conversations with Bill Shorten last month, claiming the Opposition Leader promised to revoke the Adani coalmine licence as soon as he took government.

Queensland senator Matt Canavan said Mr Cousins' comments proved that Mr Shorten's "so-called listening tour through Queensland was a sham".

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/opinion/greenleft-media-push-adani-conspiracy-theories/news-story/c7878f9a6694693cb77447f845b5d3eb>

### Green-Left media push Adani conspiracy theories

*Damien Tomlinson, Townsville Bulletin, 27/02/2018*

Another week, another condescending lecture by smug southerners about how we North Queenslanders don't know what's good for us.

This time it was from deep left field, with The Guardian Australia launching a full-scale kale leaf assault on the Townsville Bulletin and News Corp Australia over our alleged reluctance to join the media throng abetting the campaign to stop the lawful building and operation of Adani's Carmichael coal mine. \$

<http://www.afr.com/news/politics/adanis-environmental-record-under-fire-over-165b-carmichael-mine-20180227-h0wr27>

### Adani's environmental record under fire over \$16.5b Carmichael mine

*Mark Ludlow, AFR, 28/02/2018*

Indian energy company Adani said it has passed rigorous environmental assessment on its **\$16.5 billion Carmichael project**, despite it facing a number of investigations over its practices at its Abbot Point coal terminal.

The legal action is just another hurdle for Adani as it looks to secure funding for the \$6.7 billion first stage of the Carmichael mine.

Adani was fined \$12,000 for breaching the conditions of a temporary water emissions licence during Cyclone Debbie last year which allegedly contaminated wetlands next to Abbot Point. The company is appealing the fine, with the matter likely to end up in the courts.

The company is already before the court challenging a separate ruling by the Queensland Environment Department for ongoing evaluation of water quality in the Caley Valley wetlands – a move that Adani said required "significant and expensive testing and monitoring to be carried out".

Thirdly, Adani has been accused of tampering with water samples sent to the department in relation to the Cyclone Debbie incident, which could yet lead to further court action.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-02-28/revoking-adani-mine-licence-a-safe-move-for-future-government/9494178>

### Revoking Adani mine licence a safe move for future Labor government, Shorten told

*Josh Robertson, ABC, 28/02/2018*

Adani would get no compensation and find it "virtually impossible" to overturn a future Labor government's decision to scrap its mining licence, according to legal advice provided to Federal Opposition Leader Bill Shorten.

The ABC has obtained the advice, which reportedly prompted Mr Shorten to push for a shift in Labor policy to withdraw federal approval of Adani's Carmichael mine proposal "if the evidence is as compelling as it appears now".

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/feb/28/geoff-cousins-reveals-how-bill-shorten-wavered-on-adani-mine>

### Geoff Cousins reveals how Bill Shorten wavered on Adani mine

*Katharine Murphy, The Guardian, 28/02/2018*

The businessman and environmentalist Geoff Cousins ... said federal Labor leader **Bill Shorten** called him, just before Christmas last year, looking for help in how Labor might strengthen its policy on the controversial Adani coalmine ...

The Labor leader then asked whether Cousins would accompany him to north **Queensland** to help him work through the options. Shorten asked if the visit could be kept out of the media, that it not be a "photo opportunity".

"We had him many kilometres out to sea off Port Douglas ... [we] then flew over the Adani mine site ... landed nearby and we had a distinguished groundwater scientist with us who was able to show him some remarkable natural springs ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/feb/28/shorten-is-selling-out-miners-to-get-green-votes-on-adani-says-turnbull>

### Shorten is selling out miners to get Green votes on Adani, says Turnbull

*Katharine Murphy, The Guardian, 28/02/2018*

Malcolm Turnbull has blasted Bill Shorten for going "snorkelling" on the **Great Barrier Reef** courtesy of the Australian Conservation Foundation, and for selling blue-collar jobs down the river "to get Green votes" in the Batman byelection.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/mar/01/adani-asked-coalition-to-help-secure-funding-from-china-foi-shows>

### Adani asked Coalition to help secure funding from China, FOI shows

*Michael Slezak, The Guardian, 01/03/2018*

Adani asked the Australian government to help secure funding for its controversial **Carmichael coalmine**, documents obtained under Freedom of information reveal. Two government ministers subsequently wrote to a Chinese government agency vouching for the proposed coalmine...

Questions over Dfat's role in brokering loans for a foreign mining company is further complicated by the department revealing it met with the Korean Export-Import Bank in 2016, ostensibly "to clarify the status of federal environmental approvals granted for the Carmichael project" – the same reasons given for the approach made to the Chinese agency.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/shortens-excellent-17000-coral-and-coal-adventure/news-story/5f5800892d9c85d9a80b391d3038a54b>

### Shorten's excellent \$17,000 'coral and coal' adventure

*Joe Kelly, The Australian, 01/03/2018*

Bill Shorten accepted a \$17,000 private green-funded tour of the Great Barrier Reef and charter flight over the Adani coalmine, during which he pledged to environmentalists that a Labor government would seek to use federal laws to revoke the licence of the Indian mining giant. \$

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/opinion/shortens-betrayal-of-traditional-labor-values/news-story/199777b8eea836a194738f4fc1echeea>

### Shorten's betrayal of traditional Labor values

*Dennis Shannahan, The Australian, 01/03/2018*

Bill Shorten still can't give a straight answer on his position on the development of the \$16 billion Adani coal project in north Queensland.

After months of shifting positions, a personally guided tour of the Great Barrier Reef and the Carmichael basin, where it is claimed 10,000 jobs will be created in an area devastated by unemployment, and contradictory public statements about coal, the environment and jobs, the Opposition Leader is still playing with words and talking out both sides of his mouth. \$

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/court-rejected-claims-that-adani-posed-threat-to-great-barrier-reef/news-story/194c91c49043eb90591ab2b54239ae56>

## Court rejected claims that Adani posed threat to Great Barrier Reef

Graham Lloyd, *The Australian*, 01/03/2018

Carmichael may pose genuine environmental concerns in terms of water use, land clearing and habitat loss. There may well be environmental impacts from increased shipping through reef waters and from an expanded Abbot Point coal terminal near wetlands. But the bigger claim that Adani poses an existential threat to the Great Barrier Reef that can be avoided by banning the mine has been tested in the Federal Court and rejected. \$

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/mark-butler-mines-opposition-to-adani-to-shore-up-labor-support/news-story/7e7127b1c997149f33ee08b9206c66b0>

## Mark Butler mines opposition to Adani to shore up Labor support

David Uren, *The Australian*, 01/03/2018

No wonder [the Adani project] has become the avatar for all the environmental movement's dystopian visions of a capitalist future. The Great Barrier Reef is bleached and rising seawaters are flooding the coastlines of a world racked by storms, droughts and pestilence.

But when opposition climate change and energy spokesman Mark Butler addressed the Sydney Institute last week, he framed Labor's new scepticism about the project on its economics.

It is all sophistry. Butler is defending coking coal in Queensland, where Labor has the most winnable seats, and thermal coal in the Hunter, where his colleague Joel Fitzgibbon is the sitting member. But he is prepared to jettison Adani in Liberal and Bob Katter-held territory in the interests of a probably fruitless appeal to inner-Melbourne voters. Economics has nothing to do with it. \$

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/geoff-cousins-digs-in-over-shorten-adani-backflip/news-story/82ef9205e233dbdc70b821ab7dc63633>

## Geoff Cousins digs in over Shorten Adani backflip

Anthony Galloway, *Courier-Mail*, 01/03/2018

Environmental activist Geoff Cousins has revealed he went public about Bill Shorten's alleged move to kill off the Adani mine after the Opposition leader backflipped on a promise to come up

with a clear policy.

Mr Cousins told *The Courier-Mail* he was "completely convinced" Mr Shorten wanted to revoke the coal mine's environmental licence in government but is being opposed by some in his party.

He said the Opposition leader promised he would give him a "finite policy" by last weekend, "but he didn't let me know, so I proceeded to make it a public issue". \$

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville-mayor-says-antiadani-protesters-are-threatening-staff/news-story/09b12ba3bb83dba8fc7cb16a2db4064d>

## Townsville Mayor says anti-Adani protesters are threatening staff

Tony Raggatt, *Townsville Bulletin*, 01/03/2018

Townsville Mayor Jenny Hill has been forced to close another council meeting as an anti-Adani protester shouted abuse from the gallery.

Two police officers, who attended Tuesday's meeting, intervened to ask the woman to leave after the meeting was adjourned and councillors, staff and other members of the public walked out of the chamber.

Cr Hill said people were sick and tired of the abuse.

"This is about them running an agenda in Melbourne and Sydney, it's not about them really having a true debate," Cr Hill said. \$



<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/adani-protesters-say-bottoms-up-to-trespass-fines/news-story/0a8c6eada564d9f00a26968150c31e0e>

## Adani protesters say 'bottoms up' to trespass fines

Domani Cameron, *Courier-Mail*, 01/03/2018

Anti-Adani activists are relying on the public to pay for their recent legal fees accrued in North Queensland with the group to host a food and wine event in

Brisbane tonight.

Fine Wine Time is being hosted by Frontline Action on Coal after five Brisbane women were arrested on January 24 and 25 near Bowen and Collinsville.

According to the Facebook event, the five "climate warriors" — Monika Correa, Tayla Haggarty, Hannah Schuch, Harriet Barrenger and Claire Ogden — could face fines of up to \$4000.

Resources Minister Matt Canavan said the event proved the activists were not locals. \$

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2018/mar/01/shorten-says-adani-mine-decision-will-be-made-when-labor-is-in-government>

## Shorten says Adani mine decision will be made when Labor is in government

Katharine Murphy, *The Guardian*, 02/03/2018

Bill Shorten says Labor will make a decision about the future of the controversial Adani coalmine when it next wins government rather than taking any concrete position imminently, and will not rip up contracts or create sovereign risk.

In a significant cooling of his recent public signalling on the Adani project, a statement issued by Shorten's office on Thursday says, "if there are decisions to be made in government, Labor will make them in the national interest, based on relevant laws, and the best and most recent information before us".

Labor has been divided internally about how hard to go against Adani.

As well as the political calculations, there have also been internal concerns about the viability of legal avenues to stop the project.

<http://www.afr.com/news/politics/galilee-basin-coal-mines-will-go-ahead-without-adani-says-clive-palmer-20180228-h0wtoc>

## Galilee Basin coal mines will go ahead without Adani, says Clive Palmer

Mark Ludlow, *AFR*, 01/03/2018

Cashed-up businessman Clive Palmer said he planned to proceed with his \$6.5 billion Waratah Coal mine in the Galilee Basin later this year, regardless of whether Indian energy giant Adani secures funding for its controversial \$16.5 billion Carmichael coal mine.

Mr Palmer - who is back in the money following a recent court victory against Chinese company CITIC Pacific which netted him \$300 million - said he did not believe the Adani Carmichael mine

would get off the ground as it struggled to convince banks to lend to the high-profile project.

Mr Palmer's Galilee Coal Project is listed as including four underground coal mines and two open-cut coal mines with a capacity of 40 million tonnes a year. Like other Galilee projects, it would require a 450-kilometre rail line to take the coal to ports on the Queensland coast.

GVK/Hancock Coal is planning two mines in the Galilee Basin, the \$10.8 billion Alpha Coal project (30 million tonnes export capacity) and \$6 billion Kevin's Corner (has an export capacity of 30 million tonnes a year has been approved subject to conditions by state and federal government).

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/greens-call-for-shorten-to-come-clean-on-adani-policy/news-story/511c39d18574e10a8aca91995ff2c394>

### Greens call for Shorten to come clean on Adani policy

Joe Kelly, *The Australian*, 02/03/2018

The Greens have challenged Bill Shorten to clarify his position on Queensland's Adani coalmine and confirm whether a Labor government would move to revoke the licence for the \$16.5 billion project.

Seizing on revelations that the Opposition Leader privately assured environmentalist Geoff Cousins that Labor was on track to block the development if it won government, Greens leader Richard Di Natale accused Labor of promoting conflicting messages to different audiences. "He's been saying one thing to people who don't want the mine to get built," Senator Di Natale told Sky News. "And yet (it's) a completely different story when he's talking to coalminers in Queensland." \$

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-03-02/shorten-says-he-cant-ban-adani-mine-because-of-sovereign-risk/9503100>

### Bill Shorten says he 'doesn't like' Adani's mega-mine but 'can't ban it because of sovereign risk'

Allyson Horne, *ABC*, 02/03/2018

Opposition Leader Bill Shorten has launched an attack on the Adani coal mine, but declared he cannot scrap it because of sovereign risk.

"But ... I also respect the principle of Australian politics. That is, one government enters into contracts, then a future Government can't just rip them up.

"To do so would be sovereign risk."

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/bill-shorten-accused-of-flip-flopping-on-adani-coal-mine-20180302-p4z2j4.html>

### Bill Shorten accused of flip-flopping on Adani coal mine

Nicole Hasham, *SMH*, 02/03/2018

Opposition Leader Bill Shorten has denied telling colleagues he wants to block the Adani mega-mine should Labor win government, instead insisting that blocking it would hurt foreign investment in Australia.

Mr Shorten declared the position on Friday amid internal wrangling over the divisive coal mine proposal, and concern from some quarters within the party that Labor is sacrificing its electoral chances in Queensland for city votes.



<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/mar/02/shorten-says-talk-about-adani-mine-dumbing-down-climate-debate>

### Shorten says talk about Adani mine 'dumbing down climate debate'

Katharine Murphy & Paul Karp, *The Guardian*, 02/03/2018

Bill Shorten has repeatedly denied that he told colleagues he intended to ban the Adani coal mine, but dodged questions about whether he intended to revoke its licence if Labor wins the next election.

Shorten said Adani had become "ground zero for a whole lot of other arguments" and accused others of "dumbing down the debate about climate change and the future of mining to one mine project".

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/annastacia-palaszczuk-declines-to-offer-her-support-for-adani-coal-mine/news-story/1917e635ef42740f024726b1fe1e5826>

### Annastacia Palaszczuk declines to offer her support for Adani coal mine

Sarah Elks, *The Australian*, 02/03/2018

Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk has declined to offer her personal support for the Adani Carmichael coal mine, insisting investors wanted to back renewable energy projects.

At a press conference she was asked several questions about the Adani project but did not say the company's name in any of her answers, instead referring broadly to the resources sector.

She would only say the government supported "resources industries that abide by their environmental conditions, we support resources industries that create jobs, but once again it needs to stack up independently financially." \$

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/investors-in-queensland-more-interested-in-renewables-says-premier/news-story/b587cda9117a19d98fb38fc6e86b0fd7>

### Investors in Queensland more interested in renewables, says Premier

Trenton Akers, *Courier-Mail*, 02/03/2018

Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk has failed to personally back the Adani coalmine, saying "money talks" and investors are more interested in renewable energy.

Speaking for the first time since arriving home from a trade mission in the US, Ms Palaszczuk said renewables were a hot topic overseas.

Ms Palaszczuk added that more investment in gas was required as authorities faced the prospect of transitioning from coal to renewables. \$



<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/mar/03/from-the-barrier-reef-to-batman-labors-roads-all-lead-to-adani>

### From the Barrier Reef to Batman, Labor's roads all lead to Adani

Katharine Murphy, *The Guardian*, 03/03/2018

Shorten lined up [a] sensitive sortie without telling colleagues, and flew north in late January with a handful of staff [to view environmental issues around the Adani mine].

[On] Tuesday night Cousins provided a live action recount of their joint expedition on national television – a bit like David Attenborough narrating a nature documentary.

The businessman, who is as tough as they come, says Shorten also gave him a precise timetable for a public announcement [on killing off the Adani mine], before beginning to equivocate, noting internal opposition, then vanishing entirely last weekend.

To describe his public calling out of Shorten as a flip-flopper on Adani as bold doesn't really do it justice. Nuclear is more like it.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/ill-not-rip-up-adani-approval-says-bill-shorten/news-story/f5d018b2cb4681622fbac86b418e158b>

## I'll not rip up Adani approval, says Bill Shorten

*Sarah Elks & Ben Packham, The Australian, 03/03/2018*

Bill Shorten says he will not "rip up" Adani's federal environmental approvals if he wins government, as Queensland Labor Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk declined to restate her support for the huge mining project. \$

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/batman-voters-dont-care-about-coal-or-queensland-jobs/news-story/3f03f34ac799c3d-6b83a4397e92070c6>

## Batman voters don't care about coal or Queensland jobs

*John McCarthy, Courier-Mail, 03/03/2018*

Labor is in thrall of Melbourne and the voters of the inner city seat of Batman have a message for Queensland: their climate change concerns are much more important than jobs and the economy.

Some Labor insiders have already given up on winning Batman and think

*Bill Shorten unveiled projects to deliver 3,000 jobs in regional Queensland on a tour of the north. Photo: Bill Shorten, Facebook*



## Shorten leaves Adani hanging on invitation

INDIAN mining conglomerate Adani is still awaiting a response from Opposition Leader Bill Shorten after the company invited him to visit its Townsville headquarters.

The Carmichael mine's chief executive and Adani country head Jeyakumar Janakaraj sent the invitation to Mr Shorten on February 9.

The letter read: "Given your recent media commentary regarding your concerns you hold about Adani Australia, we would like to warmly invite you to visit our Townsville office and meet our valued employees working in real jobs delivering Adani's Carmichael mine and rail project."

Environmental activist Geoff Cousins this week revealed he and Mr Shorten visited north Queensland in late January, where they flew over the proposed mine. Mr Cousins told *The Courier-Mail* he was "completely convinced" Mr Shorten wanted to revoke the mine's environmental licence.

An Adani spokeswoman said Mr Shorten had not replied to the invitation. "We received an automatic email from his office," she said. "We'd welcome the opportunity to show him the area and discuss the project with him."

Mr Shorten did not provide comment. DOMANII CAMERON

*The Courier-Mail (03/03/2018): Adani has invited Bill Shorten to visit.*

a Greens victory may signal a change in attitude within the party, potentially shifting it from scepticism to outright opposition.

Others point to the Queensland Labor victory of three seats in Townsville despite the rejection by the Premier of NAIF funding for Adani. \$

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/bill-shorten-wont-back-adani-but-wont-rip-up-contracts-either/news-story/a57e5b-d963263a89b99a1c52b4fe3340>

## Bill Shorten won't back Adani but won't rip up contracts either

*Anthony Galloway & Trenton Akers, Courier-Mail, 03/03/2018*

The federal Labor leader and Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk, who have both previously

said they hoped the coal mine would go ahead, yesterday did not offer their personal backing of the project.

*The Courier-Mail* understands the Opposition Leader spoke with several MPs and environmentalists over the Christmas break about the possibility of revoking Adani's licence, under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

Asked whether he would kill off the Queensland mine on environmental grounds if he won government, Mr Shorten said: "We don't rip up contracts. I think the Adani mine project hasn't materialised in the way its spruikers have been saying ... It doesn't stack up commercially and environmentally as well as I can see, and a lot of people – the banks, the financial sector – I think they share that same view." \$

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/opinion/editorial-labor-cant-keep-on-middle-road-on-adani-mine/news-story/8fde752b52ce78e1158a83f6451ff3c>

## Editorial: Labor can't keep on middle road on Adani mine

*The Editor, Courier-Mail, 02/03/2018*

Federal Opposition Leader Bill Shorten has been squeezed in a pincer move of his own making. After tub-thumping in central Queensland a week ago about how he'd "spent his life" representing miners, Mr Shorten reportedly promised environmentalists during talks that he'd revoke Adani's mining licence, if elected.

Perhaps more galling, however, was the ducking and weaving Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk performed yesterday when quizzed about the issue.

As the elected champion-in-chief of Queensland's interests, Ms Palaszczuk has a responsibility to confront what is now a real threat to one of the biggest job-generating projects on the state's horizon. \$

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/opinion/opinion-labor-goes-cold-on-coalmining-future/news-story/08d-f6121ae759a34ed1798f80abd7d23>

## Opinion: Labor goes cold on coalmining future

*Dennis Atkins, Courier-Mail, 28/02/2018*

Labor is constructing a comprehensive policy on the much-touted Adani mine in the Galilee Basin ahead of its July national conference.

Reading between the lines of [Labor climate change spokesman] Butler's speech, Labor is going to put as much distance as possible between its re-



sources and climate change policy and, not just Adani, but the Galilee Basin generally. \$

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/adani-soap-opera-will-damage-us-business/news-story/1a0e-92f015ea4a5626067c0baca816be>

### Adani 'soap opera' will damage us: business

*Greg Brown, The Australian, 04/03/2018*

Australian Industry Group chief executive Innes Willox says the Adani coalmine has become a "soap opera", warning Bill Shorten that Australia's reputation would be severely damaged if the regulatory goalposts were shifted for the project. \$

## COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2018/mar/02/rio-tinto-faces-84bn-shareholder-revolt-over-membership-of-minerals-council>

### Rio Tinto faces \$84bn shareholder revolt over membership of Minerals Council

*Michael Slezak, The Guardian, 02/03/2018*

The voice of Australia's coal lobby is under renewed threat as the country's second biggest miner, [Rio Tinto](#), faces a shareholder revolt over its membership of lobby groups including the Minerals Council of Australia.

Global investors worth \$84bn have joined together to file a shareholder motion calling on Rio Tinto to rethink its membership of the MCA, NSW Minerals Council (NSWMC) and the Queensland Resources Council (QRC). It demands Rio Tinto reveal all membership fees paid since 2012, review the consistency of the MCA's lobbying

positions with those held by Rio Tinto, and disclose what it would take for Rio to quit its membership of the MCA.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/mar/02/panel-to-study-impact-of-coalmining-on-sydney-drinking-water>

### Panel to study impact of coalmining on Sydney drinking water

*Michael Slezak, The Guardian, 02/03/2018*

Coalmining in Sydney's drinking water catchment will be scrutinised by water experts, the [New South Wales](#) Department of Planning and Environment has announced.

Environment groups, which have been warning for years of the impact of coalmining on drinking water welcomed the move but called for a moratorium on any expansion of mining activity until the conclusion of the review.

The panel has been directed to consider recommendations from an [audit conducted last year](#), which warned: "The cumulative, and possibly accelerated, impact of mining on flow regimes in the catchment is likely linked to the increased prevalence of the current longwall methods of underground mining."

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/mar/02/maules-creek-land-clearing-continues-despite-lack-of-require-offsets>

### Maules Creek offsets still not secured, five years after land clearing approved

*Michael Slezak, The Guardian, 02/03/2018*

Five years after the controversial Maules Creek coalmine in north-

east [New South Wales](#) was given approval to clear critically endangered native ecosystems, Whitehaven Coal has still not secured the biodiversity offsets demanded by the federal government, receiving a second extension in February.

The delay has led opponents to call for offsets – intended to make up for lost ecosystems – to be established prior to the destruction taking place.

Bulldozing has been going on for three years now, despite the offsets intended to protect the ecological communities not being secured.

The practice of giving extensions to the length of time miners have to find offsets while they continue their bulldozing appears to have become standard practice. This was the second extension Whitehaven received for its Maules Creek project, while Glencore's Ulan coalmine near Gulgong in NSW has received seven extensions.

Whitehaven's offset plans for Maules Creek [have a chequered past](#). The plans it first proposed were found to be flawed, with an independent review finding they needed to be increased by almost a third.

<https://www.chinchillanews.com.au/news/more-than-99-of-disturbed-mining-land-still-needs-repair-/3350497/>

### More than 99% of 'disturbed' mining land still needs repair

*Owen Jacques, Chinchilla News, 03/03/2018*

Mining has disturbed a whopping 220,000 hectares of Queensland land, yet just 550ha or 0.25 per cent has been properly rehabilitated.

Government data shows just 18,000ha, eight per cent, of the 220,000ha total has been "progressively rehabilitated".

For scale, the proposed Adani mega-mine is expected to disturb 28,000ha that will need to be rehabilitated once the project stops production.

The cost of rehabilitating every hectare of land affected by mining in Queensland would top \$8.7 billion, according to Treasury data.

Of the 15,000 mine sites left abandoned across the state, 3500 are on public land and 20 are considered a serious problem.

The toxic Mt Morgan Mine outside Rockhampton requires \$3 million a year of taxpayer funds to keep it from poisoning rivers up to 40km away.

View north from Maules Creek. Photo: Lock the Gate



By cracking down on how it collects financial assurances, the government hopes to stop any future mine sites becoming toxic wastelands.

The government intends to pool all the mining cash to earn interest. Those extra funds would be used to rehabilitate abandoned sites.

<http://www.theherald.com.au/story/5261380/yancoals-hunter-valley-operations-south-mine-has-production-limit-lifted/?cs=305>

### **Yancoal's Hunter Valley Operations South mine has production limit lifted**

*Ian Kirkwood, Newcastle Herald, 03/03/2018*

Yancoal's Hunter Valley Operations South mine near Singleton has been granted a 25 per cent increase in production capacity, with the Independent Planning Commission allowing production to increase from 16 million tonnes a year to 20 million tonnes of run-of-mine or "raw" coal.

## **GAS, GAS, GAS**

<https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/aplng-announces-3bn-in-spending-this-year-two-shut/3348865/>

### **APLNG announces \$3bn in spending this year, two shutdowns**

*Tegan Annette, Gladstone Observer, 28/02/2018*

While touting a \$3 billion activities spend this year, Australia Pacific LNG said it continued to struggle gaining support from people living in cities far from its Curtis Island export plant.

Speaking at a gas conference in Sydney yesterday, chief executive Warwick King said the company needed to focus on improving its social licence in major cities, or risk losing "favourable policies" for its gas business.

Mr King was not the only speaker to accuse the anti-gas communities of influencing State and Federal government decisions, with Queensland Resources Council chief Ian Macfarlane dubbing them as "anti-fracking witchcraft peddlers".

<http://drillingandproduction.energy-business-review.com/news/santos-and-glng-partners-to-invest-705m-in-queensland-gas-fields-270218-6066955>

### **Santos and GLNG partners to invest \$705m in Queensland gas fields**

*EBR staff writer, 27/02/2018*

Australian gas producer Santos and its Gladstone LNG partners will invest A\$900m (\$705.3m) this year to develop certain gas fields in Queensland.

The investment will be used for funding upstream developments in the Maranoa, Western Downs, Banana and Central Highlands regions in the Australian state, said Santos.

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/business/former-qgc-boss-behind-surat-basin-tender/news-story/6c90c1d-820580d13652a2b47cbd15cd5>

### **Former QGC boss behind Surat Basin tender**

*John McCarthy, Courier-Mail, 01/03/2018*

The man who sparked the coal seam gas industry into life in Queensland is behind a successful tender for a swathe of land in the Surat Basin.

Former QGC boss Richard Cottee is heading up Central Petroleum which won a State Government tender to explore over a 77ha parcel of land north west of Miles.

Armour Energy has been awarded permits to explore a 318 square kilometre area 17km north of Surat. \$

<https://www.chinchillanews.com.au/news/gas-exploration-for-miles-and-surat/3350546/>

### **Gas exploration for Miles and Surat**

*Brooke Duncan, Chinchilla News, 02/03/2018*

More gas exploration is on its way for the region, after the Qld govt awarded tenders for domestic-only production.

Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy Dr Anthony Lynham announced yesterday that Central Petroleum and Armour Energy would develop a total of almost another 400ha just north of Miles and Surat.

<http://www.theland.com.au/story/5252717/enough-is-enough-no-more-csg-cwa/?cs=4763>

### **CWA: Enough is enough no more CSG**

*Annette Turner, The Land, 28/02/2018*

CWA policy on this matter is clear and unequivocal. After years of calling for moratoriums, increased regulation and better information, our members clearly told us at our conference last year that that enough was enough. The CWA of NSW supports a ban on unconventional gas exploration, extraction and production.

CWA of NSW recently weighed into some of the local matters in Coonamble. There were a series of land access and compliance issues in relation to an Authority to Survey the pipeline for the proposed Narrabri Gas Project. Our reply from the Minister came some two months after first writing, and in my opinion, really amounted to nothing more than a pat on the head. This isn't going to cut it. Not for us, not for our members, and certainly not for the people and communities who may be directly impacted by such a project. It would seem that the lessons from past bungling on this matter have not been heeded at all.

*Annette Turner is NSW CWA state president.*

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-02-27/fracking-ban-in-nt-should-stay-say-leading-climate-scientists/9486380>

### **Fracking ban in the Northern Territory should stay, group of leading climate scientists says**

*Jane Bardon, ABC, 27/02/2018*

Thirty-one of Australia's leading climate scientists and doctors have written an open letter to the Northern

### **Climate scientists have told the NT Government shale gasfields are too risky.**

*Photo: Finke River, West Macdonell Ranges, NT – Eve Sinton*



Territory Government calling on it to not permit the opening up of new gas fields through hydraulic fracturing.

The letter, coordinated by the Australia Institute think tank, also called on the [Territory Government's fracking inquiry](#) panel to recommend that new shale gas fields are too risky because of the consequences of potentially increasing greenhouse gas emissions.

"The NT is in the region likely to experience the most severe impacts of global warming, for example it is highly susceptible to temperature increases," wrote the scientists, including the CSIRO's Climate Change Hub leader Professor David Karoly.

"In Darwin the number of days over 35 degrees Celsius is expected to increase from 11 per year currently to up to 308 in 2070 if emissions are not reduced.

"Heatwaves have killed more Australians than any other extreme weather events."

<https://www.chinchillanews.com.au/news/poisonous-plume-warning-among-dramas-at-linc-site/3349795/>

### Poisonous plume warning among dramas at Linc site

*John Weekes, News Regional, 03/03/2018*

A "clumsy" retreat and Uzbek advisers were blamed for failures at the contentious Linc Energy site.

"Desperate times call for desperate measures," a scientist said, as concerns about a "contaminant plume" emerged at Chinchilla.

On Thursday, Brisbane District Court

heard about Linc's Generator 3 problems.

Former Linc gas operator Ray Cowie said a "plug in the hole" had formed.

Hydrogeologist Dr Gary Love emailed Mr Cowie in January 2009, warning of risks to the groundwater system.

Dr Love said a "very large contaminant plume" might move east and up into the overburden.

But Dr Love said "risks to the business" were high if Generator 3 failed "so desperate times call for desperate measures".

<http://www.afr.com/business/energy/gas/twiggy-japan-inc-team-up-to-ship-lng-to-nsw-20180225-h0wm01>

### Andrew Forrest, Japan Inc team up to ship LNG to NSW

*Matthew Stevens, AFR, 25/02/2018*

Billionaire Andrew Forrest and two powerful arms of Japan Inc have formed a joint venture that aims to disrupt gas and power markets on Australia's east coast by importing liquid natural gas into NSW.

The Western Australian iron ore maverick has emerged as the senior owner of an ambitious joint venture called Australian Industrial Energy, which is being led by the executive who used to run Santos' east coast gas business, James Baulderstone.

The venture, which plans to deliver gas by 2020, would ship LNG to a major port in NSW and into a market accusing existing suppliers of price gouging.

Success would see the consortium invest up to \$300 million on securing,

connecting and fuelling a floating re-gas terminal that would be capable of delivering up to 100 petajoules of gas.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/queensland-premier-wants-more-gas-exploration/news-story/ea9c95fed827c219686ca27f293a3af1>

### Queensland Premier wants more gas exploration

*Rosie Lewis, The Australian, 26/02/2018*

Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk has urged the Turnbull government to invest in new pipelines to encourage gas exploration, after US companies warned of the need to open up more gas reserves in Australia.

Ms Palaszczuk said American businesses delivered "key messages" to release new gas reserves during talks at the National Governors Association winter meeting in Washington. \$

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/barnett-champions-5bn-gas-pipeline-from-west/news-story/05e6fb55db8f580b623627541d45556a>

### Barnett champions \$5bn gas pipeline from west

*Paul Garvey, The Australian, 28/02/2018*

A \$5 billion transcontinental gas pipeline could get off the ground with little or no taxpayer funding if government is able to strike the right policy settings, according to former West Australian premier Colin Barnett.

Mr Barnett will also talk down the case for a liquefied natural gas import terminal on the east coast, describing the idea as one that would "fail the pub test". \$

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/agl-pours-cold-water-on-colin-barnetts-eastwest-pipeline-push/news-story/fd1a499be0227790bb3225a218e908cf>

### AGL pours cold water on Colin Barnett's east-west pipeline push

*Matt Chambers, The Australian, 28/02/2018*

AGL Energy, which is studying a Victorian LNG import terminal, has cast more doubt on former West Australian Premier Colin Barnett's push to pipe West Australian gas to the east coast, saying the economics do not appear to stack up.

AGL's head of energy supply and origination, Phaedra Deckart, said [AGL's plans](#) for a regasification terminal at Crib Point was expected to cost \$250 million to \$300m and that a 2018-19 final investment decision was still being targeted.

*Linc Energy's underground coal gasification project contaminated hundreds of square kilometres of prime agricultural land. Photo: stolen via Google*



"I'm yet to see the economics stack up for a west to east pipeline of 3,000 kilometres compared to LNG imports," Ms Deckart said. \$

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/matt-canavan-puts-pressure-on-states-over-voodoo-science-gas-policy/news-story/eb5d806cb343e-10502a061513b089326>

### Matt Canavan ups pressure on states over 'voodoo science' gas policy

*Matt Chambers, The Australian, 28/02/2018*

Federal Resources Minister Matt Canavan has stepped up calls for New South Wales, the Northern Territory and Victoria to abandon onshore gas restrictions, saying they are relying on "voodoo science" that is damaging the economy.

"I am sick and tired of the voodoo science that state and territory governments seem to be wedded to," the minister told the Australian Domestic Gas Outlook conference in Sydney this morning. \$

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/coalition-unveil-us-gas-alliance-amid-bid-to-spur-asian-lng-demand/news-story/733996e4a5f99cf-2da62d75192856e93>

### Coalition unveil US gas alliance amid bid to spur Asian LNG demand

*Matt Chambers, The Australian, 01/03/2018*

Australia has struck a regional energy alliance with the US to spur development of more LNG import infrastructure in South Asia and Southeast Asia and boost demand for billions of dollars of Australian and US LNG exports.

The Australia-US Strategic Partnership

on Energy in the Indo-Pacific was quietly signed during Malcolm Turnbull's recent visit to the US with 40 Australian business leaders. But its economic goals were revealed by Federal Resources Minister Matt Canavan at a Sydney gas conference yesterday. \$

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/companies/exxon-led-lng-plant-remains-shuttered-following-papua-new-guinea-earthquake/news-story/e5697c-507da029b3b42f86e58e0d539e>

### Exxon-led LNG plant remains shuttered following Papua New Guinea earthquake

*Matt Chambers, The Australian, 01/03/2018*

The big PNG LNG plant in which Oil Search and Santos have non-operating stakes remains closed after Monday's 7.5 magnitude earthquake, with staff still being evacuated from gas processing plants in the Highlands region. \$

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/doubts-raised-over-potential-of-queensland-coal-seam-gas-fields/news-story/057d1b06f-917804d44532a773804e113b>

### Doubts raised over potential of Queensland coal seam gas fields

*Matt Chambers, The Australian, 01/03/2018*

Gas buyers and sellers have cast doubt on the ability of Queensland's vast coal seam gas fields to supply coming export and domestic demand in the wake of Origin Energy's downgrade of reserves at its Ironbark coal seam gas project.

EnergyAustralia energy boss Mark Collette said the fields were becoming harder to produce from. \$

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-03-02/coober-pedy-fears-for-water-supply-amid-oil-gas-drilling/9493640>

### Oil, gas drilling plan raises concerns for outback Coober Pedy's underground water supply

*Gary-Jon Lysaght, ABC, 02/03/2018*

The outback town of Coober Pedy's council is concerned that the town's water could become undrinkable if a plan to drill for commercial quantities of oil and gas goes ahead.

Mining company Tri-Star has proposed to do a stimulation drill to determine if commercial resources are in the Arckaringa Basin, an underground water source in outback South Australia.

The basin sits below the much larger Great Artesian Basin, which is the only water source for Coober Pedy, population 2,000.

Coober Pedy water manager Colin Pitman is concerned about the potential impact the drilling could have on the water supply.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/australian-industrial-energy-rules-out-deals-with-agl-and-other-suppliers/news-story/5230a681e11d7328954fb-1f82bede760>

### Australian Industrial Energy rules out deals with AGL and other suppliers

*Matt Chambers, The Australian, 02/03/2018*

Australian Industrial Energy — a consortium backed by billionaire Andrew Forrest that hopes to build a \$250 million LNG import facility at Newcastle or Port Kembla — says it will not strike supply deals with incumbents like AGL Energy as it tries to contract 30 per cent of NSW gas demand to underpin its construction.

But for the project to go ahead as planned next year, the nation's biggest industrial users will need to accept that gas prices of \$9 to \$12 a gigajoule, triple traditional prices, are here to stay and agree to pay that for five to seven years from 2020. \$

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/forrest-backed-lng-import-project-aims-to-contract-30pc-of-nsw-gas-demand/news-story/5851554398b2d-79f306e4dccc7c6b3964>

### Forrest-backed LNG import project aims to contract 30pc of NSW gas demand

*Matt Chambers, The Australian, 02/03/2018*

AIE chief, and former Santos executive, James Baulderstone today made his first public presentation on the plans, which are backed by Mr Forrest's Squadron Energy, Japanese

### Exxon's LNG venture in Papua New Guinea shut down after a massive earthquake.

Photo: PNG LNG



# News this week ... from previous page

trading house Marubeni and the JERA LNG-buying partnership.

“We want to be a new entrant, there’s no point in my mind in having more gas going to the same people who control the market now,” Mr Baulderstone said after a presentation to the Australian Domestic Gas Outlook conference in Sydney, when asked if the joint venture was in talks with AGL. \$

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/gas-policy-absurd-without-cap-on-exports-tim-pallas-says/news-story/b55f777a5444dd8ec95bcd3c3df4aa11>

## Gas policy ‘absurd’ without cap on exports, Tim Pallas says

*Pia Akerman, The Australian, 01/03/2018*

Vic Treasurer Tim Pallas has accused the federal government of an “absurd and irresponsible” failure on energy policy by refusing to enact a cap on gas exports, saying the needs of Australian businesses must be met first. \$

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/accc-asks-lng-operators-to-make-public-shared-maintenance-information/news-story/55c6ae3b18c545b7be3aa6e8ec4461ae>

## ACCC asks LNG operators to make public shared maintenance information

*Prashant Mehra, AAP/The Australian, 02/03/2018*

The competition watchdog has asked operators of six liquefied natural gas facilities in Western Australia and the Northern Territory to publicly disclose maintenance schedule information that they share with each other.

The ACCC today allowed the four companies involved — Chevron, INPEX, Shell and Woodside — to co-ordinate maintenance activities, but imposed the public disclosure condition. \$

<http://www.afr.com/business/energy/gas/exxonmobils-png-lng-restart-uncertain-as-pipeline-escapes-quake-damage-20180301-h0wvni>

## ExxonMobil’s PNG LNG restart uncertain as pipeline escapes quake damage

*Angela Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 02/03/2018*

ExxonMobil has reported that the 700km pipeline at its \$US19 billion



*The Greens’ Mehreen Faruqi toured the Pilliga with Coonabarabran Residents Against Gas. Photo: Mehreen Faruqi Facebook*

liquefied natural gas project in Papua New Guinea appears to have escaped unscathed from the massive earthquake that rocked the PNG Highlands region early Monday but the timing of a restart of production is uncertain.

Electricity and water supplies were cut to camps for workers on the oil and gas fields in the Highlands and are still to be restored. More than 500 workers are thought to have been evacuated to Port Moresby. PNG LNG involves gas fields in the Highlands, an LNG liquefaction plant near Port Moresby and the long pipeline between them, which crosses major faults but which has been built to withstand earthquakes.

## FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/biggest-polluters-get-clear-path-to-hike-emissions-under-plan-20180227-p4z1y1.html>

### Biggest polluters get clear path to hike emissions under plan

*Nicole Hasham, SMH, 27/02/2018*

Australia’s biggest polluting companies would more easily jack up their greenhouse gas emissions under a Turnbull government proposal that critics say undermines multi-billion dollar efforts to tackle climate change.

The proposed change was prompted by feedback from businesses, including

the petroleum industry, which said emissions rules did not adequately allow their businesses to grow.

<http://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/5259351/greens-back-farmers-in-david-vs-goliath-fight-against-mining-and-gas/>

## Greens Mehreen Faruqi back farmers in ‘David vs Goliath’ fight against mining and gas

*Jamieson Murphy, Northern Daily Leader, 01/03/2018*

NSW Greens politician Mehreen Faruqi is “constantly in awe” at the grassroots resilience against the giant mining corporations “that seek to trample all over communities and the environment”.

As the party’s environmental spokesperson, she visited the Liverpool Plains to meet with the farmers fighting against the proposed Shenhua coal mine.

Dr Faruqi also met with anti-coal seam gas groups, who took her to the proposed coal seam gas site in the Pilliga forest, near Narrabri.

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