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KNITTING NANNAS AGAINST GAS

Fossil Fool Bulletin

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

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

FFB 1:17 • 27 MARCH 2018

#Time2Choose rally puts 10,000 people on Sydney streets

One year out from the next NSW election, #Time2Choose has put politicians on notice that people want a clean energy future.

Estimated to number between 7,000 and 10,000 people, the march filled a 2km stretch of Sydney's Elizabeth Street.

Glenn Morris, who made headlines in 2016 after riding his horse Hombre across the Sydney Harbour Bridge to raise awareness about climate change, was one of 25 farmers on horseback.

"There is devastation because of climate change all across NSW," the Inverell farmer told AAP.

"We can't afford to destroy any more healthy land."

He says crop reduction, dry land and a loss in pasture growth are already being felt across the agricultural community.

He called for a ban on coal seam gas and mining.

Gomeri man Raymond Weatherall said Aboriginal people shouldn't have to trade their land and cultural heritage for mining jobs.

"Our culture is our life and we need to protect it from coal and gas mining for our kids' sake," he said.

Lock the Gate Alliance spokeswoman Georgina Woods said the rally brought Sydneysiders together with farmers



ABOVE: Knitting Nannas travelled from regions afar to support #Time2Choose.

RIGHT: A Greens supporter at the rally.

Photos here and overleaf are from Knitting Nannas Against Gas, Lock the Gate and Jeremy Buckingham's Facebook pages.

from Coonamble, the Hunter, Northern Rivers, Southern Highlands and Liverpool Plains.

The rally sent a message to the state's politicians ahead of the 2019 NSW election, she said.

"(It) puts all political parties on notice that protecting the countryside from coal and gas, and repowering NSW with renewable energy will be pivotal issues in the coming year," she told AAP.

Nature Conservation Council Chief executive Kate Smolski said NSW has one of the most coal-dependent energy systems in the world.



"Meanwhile, the Berejiklian government is squandering a clean-energy jobs and investment bonanza and failing to tackle climate change," she said.

"The transition from coal and gas to solar, wind and storage will attract \$25 billion of investment, the construction of about 2500 wind turbines and installation of more 42 million solar panels across the state."

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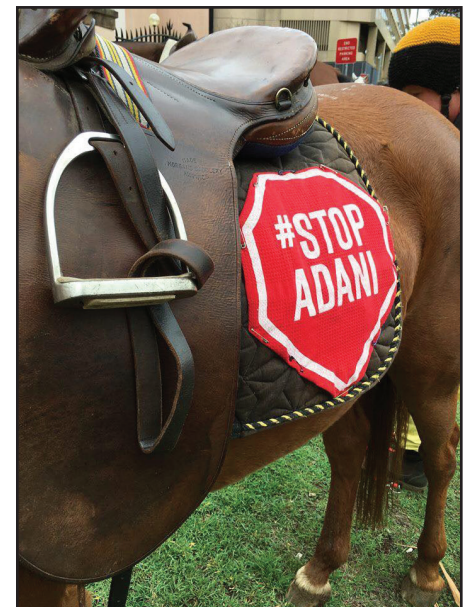
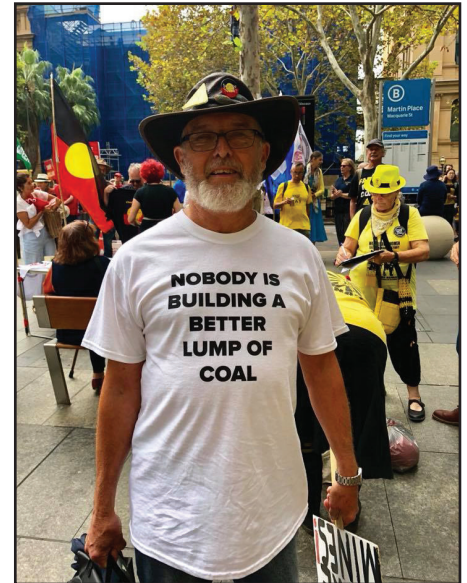
• P 2: '#Time2Choose' rally photos

• P 3: Qld Water & Adani Roadshow launched

• P 4: Fossil fools get cranky; Darwin cooks

#Time2Choose photo highlights

Facebook might be out of favour right now, but it was certainly the best source of photos from #Time2Choose.



World Water Day: Queensland Regional Water & Adani Roadshow launched

Lock the Gate Alliance and Farmers for Climate Action marked World Water Day on March 22 by launching a regional "Our Water, Our Lifeblood" speaking tour with farmers and water experts.

The tour highlights the impacts of the Adani coal mine on Central Queensland's water resources.

A number of community groups also delivered World Water Day cards and water lilies to the Premier and Ministers for Environment and Natural Resources and Mines, and to parliamentarians in Mackay and Townsville.

The cards had a message requesting protection of Queensland's precious water and cancellation of Adani's water licenses for surface water and groundwater.

Public forums in north Qld

The Our Water, Our Lifeblood Regional Roadshow features public forums in Rockhampton, Mackay and Townsville on the 11th, 12th and 13th of April respectively. Supporters of the campaign will be invited to sign a [new pledge](#) calling for cancellation of all Adani's water licences.

A referenced background paper about the risks Adani's mine presents to water security is [available for download here](#).

Central Queensland grazier Angus Emmott said "Water is the lifeblood of Central Queensland. Farmers work hard to put food on the table for people across Australia and the world, but we need clean, reliable water.

"It's dry country out here and we can't afford to throw our water supplies away on risky coal mining projects that we don't need and don't want.



The Carmichael River and associated regional water systems are at risk from Adani's proposed Carmichael mine. Photo: Lock the Gate

"The Adani mine is just one of nine coal mines proposed in the Galilee Basin which together may extract over 2,007 billion litres of groundwater – almost double the amount of water in Wivenhoe Dam.

Govt responsible for water security

"The Queensland government is responsible for water security. If the government took this job seriously it would cancel Adani's water licenses," he said.

Angus recently delivered 110,000 petition signatures to the Queensland Government calling for the Adani groundwater licence to be rescinded.

Tom Crothers, former General Manager of Water Planning and Allocation with the Queensland Government, said "If built, it is estimated that Adani's Carmichael coal mine would drain at least 270 billion litres of groundwater over the 60-year life of the project.

"The mine puts at risk ancient springs and aquifers that form part of the Great Artesian Basin which are vital in times of drought.

"The Adani mine will leave behind devastating hazards for Queenslanders – six unfilled coal pits that will drain millions of litres of groundwater every year, forever.

"Our politicians need to think very carefully about the legacy they want to leave Queensland.

"They should not let mining companies do what they like with our most precious resource at the expense of clean and green agricultural production which will still be operating long after the miners have left," he said.

- **Rockhampton Forum:** Gracemere Cattle Sale yards, Wednesday 11 April, 6.30pm
- **Mackay Forum:** Iona West Uniting Church Hall, Thursday 12 April, 6pm
- **Townsville Forum:** Seagulls Resort, Friday 13th April, 5.30pm – drinks; 6pm – forum

Movie documents battle to keep CSG out of the Pilliga

Cloudcatcher Media film-makers Eve Jeffery and David Lowe have put their feature-length documentary, Sacrifice Zone, free for viewers on Vimeo.

Sacrifice Zone gives a voice to people who want to stop Santos drilling 850 CSG wells in and around the Pilliga Forest. The project would likely open the way for thousands of wells expand-

ing into agricultural land, with associated pipelines and processing facilities.

Lessons are drawn from the industry's devastatingly rapid expansion in Queensland, and we see the experience of the Darling Downs community. This 1hr 40min doco is compelling viewing – just click right here: ➔

SACRIFICE ZONE

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

https://vimeo.com/257444267

Fossil fuel advocates get cranky

The NSW Minerals Council (aka NSW Mining) is feeling so cranky about Lock the Gate and the 350.org-hosted #Time2Choose rally it has been working overtime on its media presence.

Whipping up a meme for its NSW Mining Facebook page, the Minerals Council used – without permission – a photo of Benny Zable and the Bentley Angel by journalist Eve Jeffery.



“Nawwww – NSW Mining pinched my photo,” said Ms Jeffery, well-known for her anti-mining efforts.

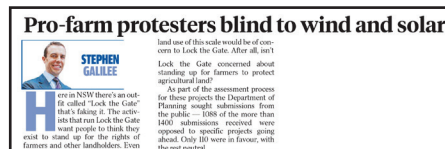
The ‘mining family’ pictured in the meme has been reverse-traced to a photo stock company.

LTG ‘fake’, ‘scam’: Minerals Council

NSW Minerals Council CEO, Stephen Galilee, had a rant published in the

Murdoch rag, *The Daily Telegraph*.

Although it was difficult to follow his line of reasoning, it appears Mr Galilee regards Lock the Gate as a ‘fake’ group because it only protests against coal and gas, not wind and solar developments on agricultural land.



“The views of farmers and landholders opposed to projects other than coal and gas are of no use to Lock the Gate. Lock the Gate’s only objective is to end mining in NSW. Lock the Gate pretends to care about local landholders, but only when it suits Lock the Gate,” Mr Galilee snarled.

Stephen Galilee’s career trajectory demonstrates the revolving door effect between government and the mining industry.

He was an advisor to Liberal PM John Howard, and later NSW Liberal Premier Mike Baird, before securing a plum job with the NSW Minerals Council in 2012.

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Cooked with gas: extreme heat in Darwin

The number of days over 35°C in Darwin has increased from 5.6 per year to 22.2 per year. CSIRO modelling estimates that without climate action this could rise to 132 days per year in 2030 and 275 days per year in 2070.

Such extreme heat would have profound effects on human health, industries and ecosystems, says a report from The Australia Institute (TAI). “Given the NT’s vulnerability to climate change, development of emission-intensive oil and gas reserves are not in the Territory’s interests,” the report said.

Temperatures above 35°C with 70% humidity are considered ‘extremely dangerous’ by government agencies such as the US Government National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The number of days over 35°C per year in Darwin has increased from an average of 5.6 days per year in the early 20th century to over 20 days per year in the last five years.

This increase is especially pronounced throughout the September to December “build-up” to the wet season. Combined with the humidity, the resultant heat stress risk is being pushed to an extremely dangerous level.

Alarming, CSIRO climate models project that without drastic reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, the number of days over 35 degrees each year in Darwin will increase dramatically to 132 days per year by 2030, 187 days per year by 2050 and 275 days per year by 2070.

Temperature increases of this magnitude are dangerous. Severe health impacts and heat-related deaths would increase. Ecosystems would be severely damaged and the standard of living of all Territorians would suffer.

Exploiting shale oil and gas in the Territory is completely incompatible with the steps we need to avoid these impacts, says TAI.

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News this week

Townsville continues to be the focus of many anti-Adani protesters. **Frontline Action on Coal (FLAC)** hung a large ‘**Water for People, not for Coal**’ banner on the city’s prominent water tank. FLAC also presented a letter to Adani contractor AECOM’s office, calling for the withdrawal of the contract.

Tensions ramped up when half a dozen **police** guarded the entrance to **Townsville Council’s chambers**, refusing entry to a group of protesters. The group, whose voices could be heard from within the council meeting, were questioning council’s **\$18m subsidy** for an Adani airstrip hundreds of kilometres inland, at the proposed mine site.

Mine blast road rage took hold in central Queensland’s **Banana Shire**, as it was revealed a public road destroyed by a mine blast won’t be rebuilt. Instead, **Anglo-American** proposes an alternate route that won’t be complete for 15 months. Meanwhile the local community faces huge inconvenience and **long detours** to carry out their daily activities. Banana Shire Council is unable to act against the mining company, as its lease was established under a **state law** that **over-rides local government**.

Murdoch’s *News.com* ran a long and well researched story describing how the Western Downs town of **Miles** has been **economically trashed** by the **CSG boom-and-bust**. The story could be applied to many other towns such as Chinchilla and Tara (see p 7).

A journo with *The Australian*, Matt Chambers, was hosted on a Darling Downs **gasfields junket** by **Santos**. The result was **two puff-pieces** about the CSG miner – one praising a female-dominated team in the Scotia gasfield, and the other detailing cost-slashing and increasing drill-speed. FFB hopes this has not been at the expense of safety.

It has been revealed that the business case for the controversial **Inland Rail** project relies heavily on **subsidised coal** wagons and increased coal production. Even so, said Bernard Keane in *Crikey*, the project will wipe out \$6.5 billion in taxpayer funding. A legacy from the **bonking beetroot!**

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In the news this week:

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 18,000 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/2018-03-21/adani-groundwater-plan-risks-permanent-damage-to-desert-springs/9569184>

Adani groundwater plan could permanently drain desert oasis, scientists say

Josh Robertson, ABC, 21/03/2018

One of the world's last unspoiled desert oases could permanently dry up under Adani's plan to drain billions of litres of groundwater a year for its Queensland mine, scientific experts say.

The Doongmabulla Springs Complex, a one-square-kilometre expanse of nationally important wetlands near the proposed site of the Carmichael coal mine, faced serious risk under the latest Adani plan before the Queensland Government, hydrogeologists argued.

The source of the ancient springs remains in doubt, with two Federal Government groundwater studies conducted since Adani received Commonwealth environmental approval in 2014 unable to identify which of two underground aquifers feeds the threatened ecosystem.

<http://www.afr.com/news/politics/adani-wont-commit-to-fresh-funding-deadline-for-165b-carmichael-mine-20180320-h0xr6x>

Adani won't commit to fresh funding deadline for \$16.5b Carmichael mine

Mark Ludlow, AFR, 21/03/2018

Indian energy company Adani has refused to say when it expects to raise enough money to start its controversial [\\$16.5 billion Carmichael coal mine](#) after admitting it would not meet its self-imposed March deadline for the project.

It comes as Adani Renewable chief executive Jennifer Purdie admitted in a submission to the Energy Security Board that new thermal generation, such as coal-fired power, would be more expensive than existing generation assets in the National Energy Market.

Adani has also yet to sign a royalties agreement with the Palaszczuk Labor government, with Treasurer Jackie Trad saying they were still waiting for the company to formally agree to the



Moses 3 lagoon in the Doongmabulla Spring series, endangered by Adani's mine. Photo: Lock the Gate

terms following an in-principle agreement last May.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-03-21/close-call-prompts-review-of-shipping-on-great-barrier-reef/9568194>

Great Barrier Reef cruise ship 'close call' coupled with expected 250pc rise in traffic sparks concerns

Brendan Mounter & Kier Shorey, ABC, 21/03/2018

Projections of a 250 per cent increase in shipping on the Great Barrier Reef over the next 20 years, coupled with a recent navigational infringement by a cruise ship, has prompted calls for a review of the marine park's maritime management.

On March 8, the Costa Luminosa, an Italian cruise ship operated by Carnival Corporation, exited the designated shipping area on the reef near Geranium Passage, off the coast of Mission Beach in far north Queensland.

Increased LNG and mining activity, [including the controversial Adani coal mine proposal](#), will likely result in more heavy ships needing access to coastal ports.

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/heavy-police-presence-at-council-chambers-as-anti-adani-protesters-disrupt-council-meeting-in-townsville/news-story/772feaf9186c4844e44246bad9c10a41>

Heavy police presence at council chambers as anti Adani protesters disrupt council meeting in Townsville

Andrew Backhouse, Townsville Bulletin, 22/03/2018

A heavy police presence has been established outside Townsville City Council chambers amid reports staff were feeling threatened by activists.

At least six police officers were guarding the entrance to the chambers during today's general meeting to prevent anti Adani protesters gaining access to the meeting, which is open to the general public.

Earlier today activists with Frontline Action on Coal hung a large banner from Townsville's iconic water tank, reading "Water for People, not for Coal".

At 10am, members of Frontline Action on Coal presented a letter at AECOM's offices in Townsville calling on CEO Michael Burke to withdraw the company's contract with Adani. The activists spoke with staff and posed with a banner before delivering their letter. \$

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

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COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/drone-extent-of-cq-mine-blast-roads-gaping-split-r/3364641/>

Drone: Extent of CQ mine-blast road's gaping split revealed

Amber Hooker, Gladstone Observer, 19/03/2018

Spectacular drone photographs of the five-months-shut Gibihi Rd have revealed the true extent of the mine blast damage.

Grain farmer John Eden's property borders the Dawson Mine in Moura.

"The hole gets progressively bigger every time they let a charge go," Mr Eden said.

Mr Eden said he feels like he's "hitting his head against a brick wall" as his business continues to pay the price of the road damage, with seemingly no negative impact on Dawson's operations.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-03-22/years-to-fix-earthquake-sized-crack-mining-company-moura-ql/9575818>

Anglo American could take years to build new road after causing earthquake-sized crack in Moura

Emilia Terzon, ABC, 22/03/2018

A mining company has admitted it could take years to fix the logistical "disaster" it created for a Queensland town, after a routine blast caused an earthquake-sized crack on a vital road.

Gibihi Road near Moura in central

Queensland was a busy freight link for local farmers and graziers, and was used daily by mining workers and a school bus.

But the routine mine blast by [Anglo American](#) caused the 90-metre deep crack in November last year.

Last night, the company held a second community meeting, where chief executive David Diamond fronted up to a 120-person crowd, many of whom were furious.

"This has been a disaster for the community. We accept that," Mr Diamond said.

Mr Diamond said fixing the road was not feasible and would take five years, instead arguing for the construction of a new road that could be built in 15 months once it is approved.

<https://www.themorningbulletin.com.au/news/cq-mine-blast-road-rage-grows-as-alternative-not-f/3367659/>

CQ mine-blast road rage grows as alternative not found

Amber Hooker, Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, 22/03/2018

Mining giant Anglo American denies any claims blasts have caused further damage to Gibihi Rd after drone photos emerged of the canyon-like split.

The vital haulage route and local thoroughfare was torn up during a routine mine blast on November 9, to the peril of locals whose detour via Kianga Rd is four times the distance.

Anglo's mining lease encompasses the Gibihi Rd, and was granted on December 16, 1971 under the Thiess Peabody Coal Pty Ltd Agreements Acts of 1962 for the "purpose of mining coal and gaseous hydrocarbons".

The Banana Shire Council previously sent correspondence to local residents to explain this, and stated "the agreement under the Act overrides Local Government Laws in dealing with this type of issue". \$

<http://www.theherald.com.au/story/5288414/former-icac-boss-says-nsw-mining-licence-process-still-a-corruption-risk/?cs=305>

David Ipp, QC accuses NSW Government of 'elaborate Clayton's' mining licence procedures

Joanne McCarthy, Newcastle Herald, 20/03/2018

The former Independent Commission Against Corruption judge who led landmark inquiries into corrupt Labor ministers has accused the NSW Government of having an "elaborate" mining licence "Clayton's process" that remains a corruption risk because of government actions.

David Ipp, QC said a decision to process the Ridglands coal mine licence renewal bid in the Upper Hunter while the Resources Regulator investigates a secret \$5 million deal between Ridglands and the government causes "respect for the whole system to be lost and corruption to be encouraged".

<https://www.dailymercury.com.au/news/mine-companies-given-green-light-to-find-more-coal/3367922/>

Mine companies given green light to find more coal

Campbell Gellie, Mackay Daily Mercury, 22/03/2018

The State Government has announced that two small companies, Metroof Minerals and Sojitz Coal, had the exploration rights to find coal in about 13,100 hectares between Middlemount and Blackwater.

Queensland Resources Council chief executive officer Ian Macfarlane said it was a positive response from the Palaszczuk Government as the coal industry continued to drive the Queensland economy.

Metroof and Sojitz must now negotiate land access agreements and fulfil any existing environmental and Native Title requirements before the exploration authority is granted and work can begin.

Anglo American was responsible for blowing up Gibihi Rd in central Queensland and has left local farmers facing long journeys to town for months. Photo: John Eden



<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-03-24/central-queensland-farmers-disgusted-mining-proposal-canned/9581976>

Farmers 'disgusted' as proposal at abandoned central Queensland gold mine canned

Emilia Terzon, ABC, 24/03/2018

Farmers who live near one of Queensland's biggest abandoned mines believe they have just lost their last chance for a toxic environmental legacy to be reversed.

They are now calling on the state to finally rehabilitate the old Mount Morgan gold mine instead.

The site is officially a ward of the state, and it currently spends \$3 million a year maintaining the site — which is also a heritage-listed tourist attraction — and its dams full of toxic water.

Estimates for a partial rehabilitation start at \$450 million.

GAS, GAS, GAS

<http://www.news.com.au/finance/business/mining/miles-the-coal-seam-ghost-town/news-story/3923c38654f0ab9e3e4ed703d1de2d52>

Miles: The Coal Seam Ghost Town

Gemma Clarke, News.com, 24/03/2018

Though it's not a mining town, Miles was part of southwest Queensland's coal seam gas construction boom. The explosion in exploration and mining activity in its surrounding areas saw a huge influx in workforce demand and fly-in-fly-out workers from around 2010.

"GISERA (The CSIRO's Gas Industry Social & Environmental Research Alli-

ance) put out these fantastic figures," said [real estate agent and land developer] David Sweetapple.

"So the town went wild. The banks lent us all money — the council spent \$30 million in Miles alone on water sewerage and waste management," Mr Sweetapple said, referring to the time around 2008 when the initial presentation from APLNG (Australia Pacific LNG, Origin Energy's joint venture with ConocoPhillips and Sinopec) was made.

Miles's population was projected to increase to 5000 people, and a growth in the workforce was predicted to continue until 2034.

The rent at the time was \$800 to \$1000 a week.

At the peak of the boom, even a space at one of the local caravan parks crept up to nearly \$1000 per week. Long-term residents who could no longer afford the rent moved out.

After the last of the mining workers were shifted out to Condabri, the vacancy rate in Miles rose to 45 per cent, where it stayed at for several years.

"Rents were down to \$150 a week for those fortunate to have it," Mr Sweetapple said. "That was furnished apartments, furnished houses."

"What's happened in the town is the most devastating thing," he said. "If any community was considering it, I'd seriously say don't do it. Don't get involved. Don't believe a word they say. Don't believe anything Treasury says. It's all a gross misrepresentation."

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/women-play-leading-role-in-santos-scotia-gasfield-project/news-story/19a9bb1de61b1cab6c82810ef3febec1>

Women play leading role in Santos Scotia gasfield project

Matt Chambers, The Australian, 24/03/2018

At the Santos-run Scotia coal-seam gasfield northeast of Roma in Queensland, something unprecedented in the oil and gas industry is happening.

What sets apart Scotia is that it is being managed and developed by a senior team made up predominantly of women. And this is not by design.

Dina Nolasco is a chemical engineer who runs Santos's Scotia CSG development and the upcoming Arcadia expansion nearby. She says Scotia, a 2½-hour drive from Roma, has gained a reputation within Santos as a training ground for successful managers. "Scotia has a history of very talented women coming here, doing it well and going on to bigger things," Nolasco says.

Many of the women in the team will shift to the Arcadia project, expected to be sanctioned within months, when Scotia is complete.

• The reporter travelled to Scotia as a guest of Santos. \$

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/well-well-well-how-santos-glng-slashed-costs-drilling-times/news-story/ac8b250817ae9e059820f68ef5177a8c>

Well, well, well: how Santos GLNG slashed costs, drilling times

Matt Chambers, The Australian, 24/03/2018

At the Santos-led Gladstone LNG project, benefits are already being seen in the form of reduced costs and faster drilling, aided by a substantial rethink of how things are done.

GLNG is leading the push to bring costs down, under a company-wide transformation drive by Santos chief Kevin Gallagher.

In the past two years, well costs are down nearly three-quarters at GLNG and the time to drill a well has halved.

Santos last month approved a \$750 million development of the Roma East field and in the coming quarter is expected to approve its next development, Arcadia, to the north.

Santos plans to drill 250 wells this year and said this would ramp up to between 350 and 400 wells in following years, before the pace drops off again. \$

Miles, Queensland – an example of CSG's boom and bust cycle causing social and economic disruption. Photo: Tourism Queensland



<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/mar/21/narrabri-gas-project-fire-risk-unacceptable-fire-fighters-say>

Narrabri gas project fire risk unacceptable, firefighters say

Michael Slezak, *The Guardian*, 21/03/2018

Firefighters with decades of experience working around the bush-fire-prone Pilliga forest say Santos's controversial Narrabri gas project will create an unacceptable fire risk to workers at the site, as well as to surrounding properties.

The project would have an exemption from complete fire bans, having permission to flare gas at the site, even during catastrophic fire weather.

The flares themselves wouldn't produce soot or embers, but during periods of high wind, debris could be blown through a flare, which could start a fire.

Santos itself acknowledged this risk in its environmental impact statement, noting: "Construction and operation of the project would involve activities that are potential sources of ignition including hotworks and operation of machinery."

However, Santos said the risk from those sources would be reduced by the bushfire management plan.

<https://www.ruralweekly.com.au/news/farmers-tour-queenslands-csg-sites/3366148/#.WrDIXR6Z0gQ.facebook>

Farmers tour Queensland's CSG sites

Cassandra Glover, *Rural Weekly*, 20/03/2018

Fearing the approval of Santos' Narrabri Gas Project in New South Wales, a group of farmers and community members have conducted a tour of southwest Queensland for a first-hand view of the communities affected by coal seam gas, as well as some of the gas infrastructure on the Darling Downs.

The four-day tour was organised by the Wando Conservation and Cultural Centre, Narrabri, and included meetings with locals in Chinchilla, Miles, Reedy Creek and Roma.

<http://www.theland.com.au/story/5296835/csg-dispute-goes-to-the-polls/>

It's official: Coal Seam Gas is an election issue

Daniel Pedersen, *The Land*, 22/03/2018

Broken Hill Mayor Dariea Turley will almost certainly contest the seat of Barwon for the Australian Labor Party in the next state election.



Knitting Nannas joined the Newcastle protest against seismic testing. Photo: Facebook

The preselection process is not yet complete, Ms Turley is part of the process and the ALP has confirmed that.

The ALP's determination to stop coal seam gas was laid bare on Tuesday, at a meeting of more than 200 farmers north of Coonamble, at which Ms Turley was present.

State opposition leader Luke Foley said no applications to drill for coal seam gas would be approved if the ALP was elected at polls in about 12 months time.

<http://www.theherald.com.au/story/5288334/beach-rally-against-off-shore-testing-photos/?cs=305>

Hundreds gather at Nobbys beach in protest against seismic testing off the coast of Newcastle

Max McKinney, *Newcastle Herald*, 18/03/2018

They formed the shape of a dolphin on Nobbys beach and chanted "whales not gas!" in protest against off-shore seismic testing set to begin off the coast of Newcastle next month.

Over 500 gathered on Sunday in searing heat to show their dismay at Asset Energy's approval to conduct the underwater acoustic testing.

In February, Newcastle City Council voted unanimously to oppose off-shore testing and NSW resources minister [Don Harwin voiced his opposition to the project](#) in state parliament. Mr Harwin said the state was unable to revoke the approval without Commonwealth backing

Goh Hock, chief executive of Asset Energy's parent company – MEC Resources – previously said the testing grounds were "supremely located" to provide gas to the Australian east coast market.

<http://www.theherald.com.au/story/5297460/gas-search-off-nsw-coast-only-way-to-protect-jobs-matt-canavan/?cs=305>

Gas exploration off the coast of Newcastle could be vital to manufacturing industry, says Matt Canavan

Max McKinney, *Newcastle Herald*, 21/03/2018

Federal resources minister Matt Canavan says seismic testing off the coast of Newcastle next month could be vital to protecting jobs in manufacturing.

Mr Canavan also defended the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority's (NOPSEMA) approval to Asset Energy, saying they had "drawn on an extensive team of environmental and technical experts" in their assessment.

<http://www.wollondillyadvertiser.com.au/story/5295395/petition-for-more-health-research-into-coal-seam-gas/>

Coal seam gas petition demands research

Kayla Osborne, *Wollondilly Advertiser*, 20/03/2018

When Danielle Hodges purchased her dream home in Spring Farm her family was happy and healthy.

However just six weeks after moving in her children began to experience

chronic nose bleeds and she started to get prolonged headaches.

Mrs Hodges believes this is due to the coal seam gas well located just 400 metres from her front door – there are 19 wells in total within two kilometres of her house.

She has started a petition calling on the National Health and Medical Research Council to conduct research into the long-term health effects of coal seam gas.

“A new study in the United States had some results that are pretty concerning,” she said.

“The types of illnesses that are being associated with unconventional gas mining include low birth weights, skin problems, respiratory diseases, cancers and reproductive disorders.”

<https://theconversation.com/not-getting-a-social-licence-to-operate-can-be-a-costly-mistake-as-coal-seam-gas-firms-have-found-93718>

Not getting a social licence to operate can be a costly mistake, as coal seam gas firms have found

Hannabeth Luke, The Conversation, 23/03/2018

My research on coal seam gas firms and social licence reveals what's at stake if they get it wrong, and how they might get it right in the future.

“Social licence to operate” is a term that describes how much community support a project, company or industry has in a region. ...

Chief executive of gas company Metgasco, Peter Henderson, explained to me in early 2012 that he viewed social

licence as “an opportunity for NIMBYs to complain” (NIMBY meaning: “not in my backyard”). His view was that we had a democratically elected government that people should trust to make decisions on their behalf.

When we spoke again a year later, Metgasco was experiencing major operating restrictions, resulting from regulatory decisions made with what he saw as “absolutely no scientific, risk-management or factual basis”. His firm's social licence was lost, and social resistance was in full swing.

• *Hannabeth Luke is a Lecturer, Southern Cross GeoScience, Southern Cross University*

NUKE MADNESS

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-03-23/sa-gov-backs-nuclear-waste-dump-amid-community-tensions/9262948>

SA Government indicates support for nuclear waste dump as communities remain split about proposal

Patrick Martin & Gary-Jon Lysaght, ABC, 23/03/2018

South Australia's Government says it will back a Federal Government proposal to build a nuclear waste dump in the state's outback.

New Premier Steven Marshall made the comments this week after his cabinet was sworn in at Government House.

The Federal Government is [looking to store low-level nuclear waste](#) and temporarily store intermediate level waste at one of two locations [near Kimba](#), or one at [Barndioota, near Hawker](#), in the

Flinders Ranges.

The Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) held informal community consultations in both towns this week.

FOSSIL POLITICS

http://lnk.edition.crikey.com.au/1/AgExDPG081L_AB-zOnPmarQA?utm_source=TractionNext&utm_medium=E-mail&utm_campaign=Insider-Subscribe-200318

Inland Rail's dirty secret

Bernard Keane, Crikey, 20/03/2018

As the federal government pushes forward with Barnaby Joyce's white elephant political legacy of a \$10 billion inland rail line, overlooked is the extent to which subsidised coal exports will play a key role in the finances of the project.

Despite using optimistic demand scenarios, the government has been unable to conjure a business case for the inland rail line ... According to the [business case](#) prepared in 2015 by rail infrastructure owner Australian Rail Track Corporation for a committee headed by former Nationals leader John Anderson, the inland rail project as a whole will wipe out \$6.5 billion in taxpayer funding over its life. ...

That's where coal comes in. The second-largest revenue item for the inland rail project in the business case is nearly a billion dollars in revenue from coal haulage. That's conditional on an expansion in thermal coal exports. “There is potential for Inland Rail to be a catalyst for additional coal exports from south east Queensland through the Port of Brisbane,” the business case states.

But crucially, the ARTC plans to subsidise coal exports in order to get more traffic on the inland rail route. ... As the business case stands, however, coal exporters will be the big winners, with a substantial subsidy from taxpayers for a project that not merely can't stand on its merits, but is explicitly designed not to. \$

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/opinion/lock-the-gate-alliance-pretends-to-care-about-local-landholders-but-only-when-it-suits-them/news-story/a317d-0d3c7508798b977b269e58381ad>

Lock the Gate alliance pretends to care about local landholders, but only when it suits them

Stephen Galilee, Daily Telegraph, 22/03/2018

Here in NSW there's an outfit called “Lock the Gate” that's faking it. The activists that run Lock the Gate want

Metgasco couldn't get a social licence: Knitting Nannas met each week outside the gasco's Casino office until it closed down. Photo: Knitting Nannas Against Gas



News this week ... from previous page

people to think they exist to stand up for the rights of farmers and other landholders. ...

The views of farmers and landholders opposed to projects other than coal and gas are of no use to Lock the Gate. Lock the Gate's only objective is to end mining in NSW. Lock the Gate pretends to care about local landholders, but only when it suits Lock the Gate.

• *Stephen Galilee is CEO of the NSW Minerals Council.* \$

<https://www.sconeadvocate.com.au/story/5301495/sad-ling-up-to-send-a-message/>

Murrurundi horseman to saddle up for statewide anti-coal and coal-seam gas rally

Caitlyn Reid, Scone Advocate, 22/03/2018

Murrurundi horseman Jon May-Steers wants to send a clear message to NSW politicians on Saturday – it's time to chose.

One year out from the NSW state government election, Mr Steers will be saddling up and heading to the big smoke to take part in a statewide anti-coal and coal-seam gas rally #Time2Choose.

Part of the rally will include people on horseback to send a clear message to the state parliament to choose a clean energy future.

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/anti-coal-protesters-take-to-the-streets-in-sydney>

Anti-coal protesters take to the streets in Sydney

SBS, 24/03/2018

Farmers on horseback, anti-mining activists and traditional owners have descended upon Sydney's CBD with a message to the NSW government - choose environmental sustainability over coal.



Inverell beef farmer Glenn Morris rode his horse in the '#Time3Choose' rally last Saturday. Up to 10,000 people and 25 horses took part in the Sydney event.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/mar/24/we-want-to-repower-nsw-thousands-rally-against-coal-in-sydney>

'We want to repower NSW': thousands rally against coal in Sydney

Helen Davidson, The Guardian, 24/03/2018

Exactly a year out from the state election, thousands of people from across New South Wales – including some on horseback – have marched through Sydney, calling for an end to coal seam gas and coal mining.

The "Time to Choose" rally, which began at Martin Place, marched to Prince Alfred Park in the city's south stretching almost 2km along Elizabeth Street.

<http://www.france24.com/en/20180324-aussie-cowboys-join-sydney-rally-against-coal-gas-mining>

Aussie cowboys join Sydney rally against coal and gas mining

AFP, 24/03/2018

Thousands of Australians including farmers on horseback rallied in the

heart of Sydney on Saturday, calling on authorities to ditch coal and gas mining developments in rural regions in favour of renewable energy projects.

There were unusual sights in the harbour city's central business district as horses trotted down a major street to join demonstrators -- including indigenous peoples, knitting grandmothers and environmental campaigners -- outside the parliament of New South Wales state.

"Our farms are being ruined, our food bowls have no water, they have drill pads or coal mines in the middle of their farms," Clare Twomey, one of the co-founders of Knitting Nannas Against Gas, told AFP.

"It's a huge disaster for our planet."

Non-renewables such as coal and gas are Australia's primary fuel source for generating electricity, although renewables have been rising in recent years.

FFB

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



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