

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

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CSG: Unrestrained corporate power “violates human rights”

The Australian National President for Australian Lawyers for Human Rights, Benedict Coyne, has come out in support of the Australian arm of the International People’s Tribunal Session on the Human Rights Impacts of Fracking.

The Tribunal session comes as Arrow Energy and Shell have signed a deal to roll out thousands more CSG wells across agricultural areas of QLD, and the Federal Government has announced a package to hand out millions in taxpayer funds to support onshore CSG and fracking across Australia.

Mr Coyne describes unconventional gas as “anti-democracy”, as “the logical progression of unrestrained corporate power, a systemic invocation of government against its people and it violates numerous universally accepted human rights as contained in the international bill of rights.”

Some of the rights violated by the dash for gas that are listed by Mr Coyne include:

- **The right to highest standard of physical and mental health;**
- **The right to enjoy a safe a healthy environment;**
- **The right to property;**
- **Indigenous rights to culture and heritage; and**
- **Effective legal remedy.**

He notes that three times since 2016, the issues and impacts of unconventional gas in Australia have reached the United Nations.

“The eyes of the world are on Australia and this issue making the tribunal a very important vehicle that will bear witness of the injustices being committed against our communities,” Mr Coyne said.

“There has been such wanton igno-

rance and secrecy in the roll out of this CSG industry that it is more important than ever that the community become educated about the impacts before more damage is done.

Wanton ignorance and stupidity... community must be educated before more damage is done

“It is up to all of us to stand up against the violations of human rights suffered by our fellow community members,” he said.

Chinchilla resident Shay Dougall, who worked to set up the Australian arm of the People’s Tribunal, said:

“After experiencing the negative impacts of CSG, I’ve worked for many years to bring our local voices to the attention of Ministers, done air and water testing, hosted symposiums and written letters.

“I’ve met individuals and organisations that have also attempted to raise the consciousness of the government to the perils of the industry. We’ve felt the damage to our communities, to the environment and our human rights.

“People in the middle of this have their home, family and business hosting the dash for gas. We are expected to live with the consequences for generations to come.

“The International Permanent People’s Tribunal provides us the ultimate remedy to the barriers and challenges we face. It takes the issues to an authority higher than the government; the people,” she said.

February 2018 is the deadline that has been set for finalising testimony for the International Tribunal. See:

peopletribunalongas.org

\$26m gas boost

Gas miners scored a fat Christmas gift from Minister for Resources and Northern Australia, Matt Canavan.

In a statement slipped out just before the holiday break, he said the Australian Government’s \$26 million Gas Acceleration Program (GAP) will be open to applications from 15 January – 13 February.

The GAP is a component of a \$90 million investment in gas security, said Mr Canavan.

The GAP will offer up to \$6 million to gas projects that have substantiated prospects of bringing significant new gas volumes to market by mid-2020.

“This funding can be used to develop new technologies or techniques to boost well productivity, for new production or exploration near existing infrastructure.

“It can also be used to build new gas processing, storage and transport facilities, or for other activities that will bring forward new gas supply.

A handout to gasco’s to do more harm

Lock the Gate said the program is a taxpayer funded handout to gas companies that have been doing the wrong thing by Australian businesses.

“The Turnbull Government is now offering taxpayer funded handouts to big gas companies that export most of their gas,” Lock the Gate’s Naomi Hogan said.

“Too many Australian farms are being drilled, threatening land and water, all so the gas can be exported off overseas.

“We’d have enough gas for Australian businesses without having to frack more land, if we stopped exporting so much of it.

W&J put hold on native title surrender

Wangan and Jagalingou (W&J) representatives are seeking to prevent the extinguishment of their native title by the Queensland Government for Adani.

They have ensured that there will be no surrender of lands until the court hears their injunction application in January.

Justice Reeves of the Federal Court made an order yesterday against the Qld Government, preventing any surrender of native title until the W&J application is heard. He also set the W&J interlocutory application for a hearing on 30 January 2018.

This full hearing is set for trial in March in the matter of Delia Kempfi & Others v Adani Mining Pty Ltd & Others.

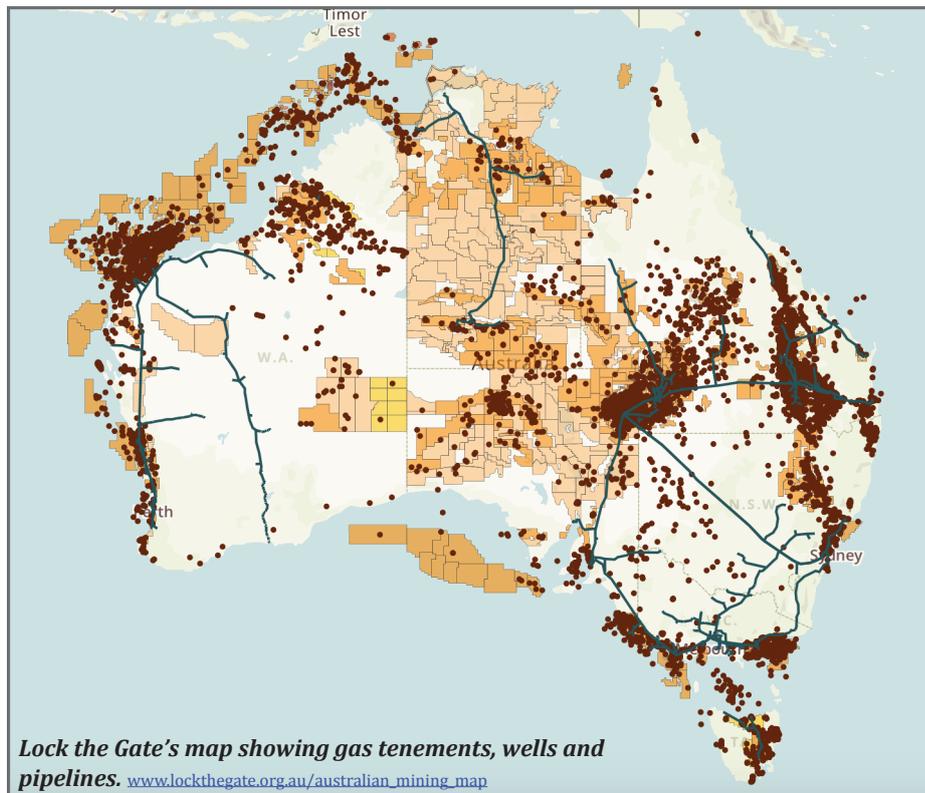
Wangan and Jagalingou (W&J) Traditional Owners Council Spokesperson, Adrian Burragubba said, "The interim injunction offers some respite. It ensures that extinguishment of our native title cannot be snuck through over the holiday period. Adani pressed hard and objected to the injunction. The Queensland Government sought to preserve its ability to advance swiftly on the Adani project, refusing to give an undertaking not to proceed.

"Extinguishment of native title is a very serious matter... we seek to void Adani's supposed land use deal"

"We have long argued Adani's 'Indigenous land use agreement' (ILUA) is a sham, and that it should not have been registered. With the support of the W&J claim group who voted against the agreement for the fourth time on December 2, we are determined to prevent our land being taken without our consent and to protect our country and sacred places from destruction.

"It is necessary for us to seek to restrain them. Any ILUA with Traditional Owners should be beyond reproach and demonstrate without doubt our free prior informed consent. Especially if extinguishment of native title results from it."

Coal and gas tenements cover over 37% of Australia



Lock the Gate's map showing gas tenements, wells and pipelines. www.lockthegate.org.au/australian_mining_map

National mapping reveals that 37.3% of Australia is covered by coal and gas licences and applications.

That amounts to 285 million hectares – an area almost 13 times the size of Great Britain.

Lock the Gate says our best food-producing lands, finest natural areas and some of our most important water resources are all at risk from unsafe coal and gas mining.

Many of our nationally significant water supplies are at risk, including:

- Sydney's drinking water catchment
- Important groundwater resources for Perth and Alice Springs
- The vast inland water supplies of the Great Artesian Basin
- The desert rivers of the Lake Eyre

Basin of south-west Qld

- The recharge zone for the international tourist icon of Mataranka Hot Springs
- The groundwater of the Limestone Coast of South Australia

Find out if your home or your family are covered by coal or gas licences

LTG has produced a map which can be explored by switching the layers on and off on the right, and using the zoom features. You can see coal, gas, or both.

People are encouraged to share the map across the country –

http://www.lockthegate.org.au/australian_mining_map

Origin sucking up Condamine bubbles

According to the Chinchilla News, Condamine River gas bubbles have fallen to the lowest levels yet recorded.

In December 2017 the flow of gas from river seeps dropped by more than 90 per cent from the peak rate of almost 2000 litres per minute recorded in January 2016.

Origin's interceptor wells are sucking

up the fugitive methane.

But there are potential negative effects.

This is the possible sucking of water out of the river through the same pathway once the gas flow is controlled.

See the full story at:

<https://www.chinchillanews.com.au/news/river-bubbles-burst/3302754/>

2018: A turning point for renewables vs coal and gas

Fossil Fool Bulletin is back for 2018.

A surprising amount of news turned up over the holiday break.

Ever vigilant, FFB scooped it all up.

The coal and gas industries, so destructive on a global scale, are making their last grasp for power and profit.

The current mining model relies upon taking over other people's land and trashing it for short-term gain.

And then there's our unfolding climate crisis.

Planet Earth cannot survive the infinite growth of fossil fuels.

Nowhere is this better illustrated than the controversy around Adani's Carmichael mine.

Over the past year I have recorded print articles on the Carmichael mine

project totalling 430,395 words. If printed out, that would be 712 x A4 pages!

Fossil Fool Bulletin summarises and references that vast quantity of information in a digestible weekly format.

People standing up to fossil fuel forces need to be well informed so they can substantiate their position.

That is the reason for *Fossil Fool Bulletin*. I look forward to an inspiring year supporting people and the environment.

Happy New Year!

– Eve Sinton

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A critical year in the fight to save the Pilliga from Santos

Communities around the Pilliga are on high alert as we enter 2018.

They will continue to monitor attempts by pipeline company APA to ram a gas pipe through private properties.

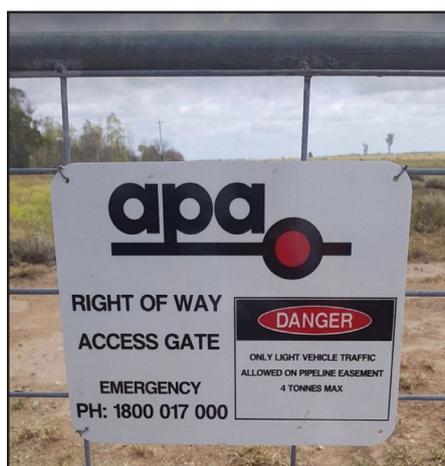
Besides violating trespass and biosecurity regulations, the pipeline is seen as a snake's head for the development of Santos CSG wells.

As already seen on the Darling Downs, the pipeline itself will be an environmental disaster accompanied by soil slumping, erosion and invasive weeds.

Who can argue that farming operations won't be impeded by a four tonne limit on a 30-metre wide swathe of land over hundreds of kilometres? Try driving a decent size tractor or harvester over that!

The proposed route of the Inland Railway, which just happens to pass right by the Santos Leewood plant is also of concern.

The NSW Planning Department is considering a record 23,000 submissions on the Santos project, most of them opposed to the development.



The news this week

Fallout from **Adani's split** with lead contractor Downer continued over Christmas week. While Adani claimed it had called off the deal, *The Oz* and *AFR* reported it was **Downer** who spat the dummy. The company lost faith that work on the Carmichael mine would commence any time soon.

Adani's project director for the mine, **Peter Thomas**, has quit the job and signed on as CEO of WA port developer, **BBI Group**.

Bloomberg reported that **Gautam Adani's wealth** increased by \$5.6 billion last year, riding on stock market gains. He was the second-best performing of India's billionaires in 2017.

John Quiggin's New Matilda article is recommended reading, as he explains why **Adani** persists with the project despite the numbers not stacking up.

Adani's favoured media outlet, *The Courier Mail*, lashed the Palaszczuk government for 'brazen hypocrisy' over the **Adani Naif loan** veto. "All the hallmarks of student unionism politicking," the editor spouted, alongside a sympathetic interview with Adani Australia's CEO, **Jeyakumar Janakaraj**.

Clive Palmer's proposed **new coal mine** north of Rockhampton has been labelled a public health 'shocker' and a **toxic gas threat** to drivers on the Bruce Highway during blasting operations, says the *ABC*. It is thought Mr Palmer is seeking approval for the mine in order to sell it.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* reported the unlamented departure of **NSW EPA chief, James Buffier**. Pollution from Hunter Valley mines, power stations, vehicle emissions and coal train dust all proliferated under his watch.

One of Australia's biggest carbon polluters, **Chevron**, has hit technical problems with underground injection of CO₂. Over five million tonnes of the gas will instead be released to the atmosphere from its Gorgon plant over two years, says *The West Australian*.

Lastly, *The Australian* says the **Minerals Council of Australia** chief blames green activist 'attacks' for a steep drop in mining engineering student enrolments.

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Life and death in the gasfields



Rainfall on the Darling Downs can be a mixed blessing when you live in close proximity to dozens of CSG wells and processing plants. After heavy rain made him itchy like sunburn and caused sore eyes and a sore throat, a resident found dead frogs in the strainers of all three household water tanks.

Residents consider their water unfit for drinking and bathing.

Gas companies and the government have been unhelpful with testing for contaminants. Human sickness and animal deaths like this were not evident before CSG drilling took over the landscape.

Did a 'greenie' send Barnaby's bullet?

When Barnaby Joyce's by-election campaign was punctuated by a bullet and death threat in the mail, he was quick to blame 'greenies' for the unwelcome package.

He said "this is the sort of garbage we have to put up with".

"People always think these wonderful green lobbyists, they're all so peaceful. When they deliver a bullet, they obviously have a firearm and they obviously own rounds of ammunition.

"This is not the sort of politics we want in Australia."

But were any green lobbyists involved?

Armidale man Neville Newman, 74, was charged on December 28 after police allegedly found bullets at his home which match those which were sent to the National party leader at his Peel St office in November.

The man was charged with using a car-

riage service to menace/harass/offend and stalking.

Mr Newman has also been charged with making a threatening phone call to Joyce's parents, Marie and James, on Saturday 23 December.

The bullet was sent with a note about the \$1 billion Adani loan and other, undisclosed, issues.

Mr Newman was bailed and is due to appear at the Armidale Local Court on Monday February 12.

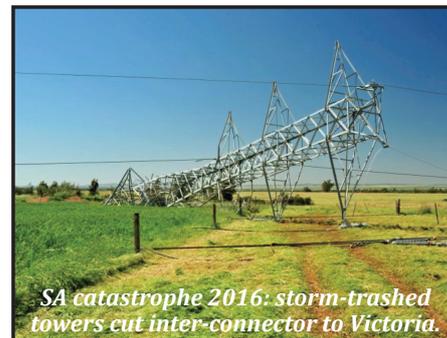
Mr Joyce has many potential enemies. He recently rolled a well-regarded National Party minister out of Cabinet.

His family strife is well-known in social media circles, despite the MSM skipping over some dramatic incidents.

Green activists in the Armidale area say they have never heard of the alleged offender.

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Big coal trips out four times in a week, but LNP polities have nothing to say



Coal-addicted politicians have been silent during multiple coal power failures all over the country during a hot week in December 2017.

Contrast this with their vociferous anti-renewables attack during SA's storm-induced outage in September 2016.

Renew Economy reports that big coal generators around the country tripped out numerous times in a single week.

Units failed at Eraring (NSW), Milmerran (Qld), Mt Piper (NSW) and Loy Yang A (Vic). Problems continue at Mt Piper, Liddell, and Loy Yang A.

"The intermittent and unreliable nature of the coal fired power stations will be of particular concern to the Australian Energy Market Operator, charged with keeping the lights on and hoping it has enough reserve capacity to deal with failing coal and gas units", *Renew* said.

Last week, a task-force commissioned by the NSW government warned of a potential "system black" in NSW and noted the lack of preparedness for such an event.

"That conclusion is ironic because the NSW grid, sourcing some 88 per cent of its supply from coal fired generation in 2016/17 has the highest reliance on coal of any grid in the world," said *Renew Economy*.

In September 2016, South Australia experienced massive and prolonged power cuts when a storm smashed several transmission towers.

LNP politicians were quick to blame SA's 40% renewable energy supply.

Malcolm Turnbull, Josh Frydenberg and others went on a renewables rage.

In fact, the power crisis was caused by the tower catastrophe cutting an inter-connector line from Victoria.

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In the news this week:

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 30,088 words of news for your convenience. Click on the [links](#) to view original articles. (\$) = subscription may be required

THE ADANI SAGA

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/state-politics/palaszczuk-plan-to-extend-adani-loan-veto/news-story/95997b204b9f1e041b85cffe49b888>

Palaszczuk plan to extend Adani loan veto

Michael McKenna, *The Australian*, 19/12/2017

The Queensland Labor cabinet will consider extending its veto of a \$1 billion federal loan for the Adani mine to other projects in the burgeoning Galilee Basin coal province.

State Treasurer Jackie Trad yesterday confirmed that cabinet would soon decide whether it would block a similar loan application from coal and freight hauler Aurizon to fund a \$1.5 billion multi-user rail link to also service planned mines in the central Queensland basin. \$

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/downer-adani-shelve-2bn-contracts/news-story/993819e924ff1be7c10125d8d58346c8>

Downer, Adani shelve \$2bn contracts

Paul Garvey, *The Australian*, 19/12/2017

More than \$2 billion of potential contracts between Adani and construction heavyweight Downer EDI over the controversial Carmichael coal project have been abandoned amid the fallout from the Queensland government's funding veto.

It's understood the original letters of intent between Adani and Downer expired at the end of November, with the contractor then approaching Adani to discuss a termination of the agreement. Investors in Downer had placed little to no weight on the prospect of the Adani work materialising any time soon, with shares in the company easing by 0.6 per cent to \$6.87. \$

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/state/qld/2017/12/18/adani-downer/>

After Downer's withdrawal, anti-Adani activists set their sights on ALP

Andrew Tate, *The New Daily*, 18/12/2017

With mining services company Downer pulling out of the Adani coal mine development, activists now say they'll turn their pressure tactics on the ALP at a state and federal level.

"The Labor party in Queensland, who are now in a majority, have got the power to stop mining in the Galilee Ba-



Another Downer for Adani after breakup with major contractor

A consequence of QLD Government's decision to veto a NAIF loan.

THEMORNINGBULLETIN.COM.AU

sin anytime they want to, with regards to native title issues, with regards to water license. They can even take away mining licences if they want to. But also federal Labor" [Ben Pennings of Galilee Blockade].

"If federal Labor finally get off the fence and say they don't think there should be mining in the Galilee Basin then Adani and any other project is dead in the water because they are looking at 60-year projects which require long-term support from both federal parties ... so we're going to keep pressuring them."

<https://www.themorningbulletin.com.au/news/another-downer-for-adani-after-breakup-with-major-/3293402/>

Another Downer for Adani after breakup with major contractor

Leighton Smith, *The Morning Bulletin*, 18/12/2017

THE Queensland Government's decision to veto Adani's NAIF loan has caused them to scrap a \$2 billion contract with engineering group Downer EDI for the controversial Carmichael coal mine.

It's not all doom and gloom according to Newscorp analyst John McCarthy who said Adani had shown its ability to raise funds by recently refinancing hundreds of millions of dollars in debt for the Abbott Point coal port - showing investor faith in the port's viability.

"It can sell a stake in its project and there have been rumours of international investment funds willing to take up that option," Mr McCarthy said.

"It can sell its Abbott Point coal port, which could raise more than the \$2 billion it paid for it."

Mr McCarthy said Adani also had the option of cutting about \$2 billion from its cost base and letting Aurizon build its alternative rail line from the Galilee Basin mine site to the Abbot Point port.

<http://www.afr.com/business/mining/adani-severs-ties-with-downer-edi-20171217-h06an5>

Adani severs ties with Downer

Peter Ker, *Australian Financial Review*, 18/12/2017

Downer EDI was hired by Adani in December 2014 to conduct drilling, blasting and coal haulage at the Carmichael project, under a deal reportedly of almost \$2 billion.

But under the terms of the deal, Downer had the right to scrap the agreement if the Carmichael project had not officially gone ahead by November 30, and with financing for the project still uncertain, Downer asked Adani to consider cancelling the agreement in recent weeks.

The decision comes less than two months after protests marred Downer's annual meeting of shareholders in Sydney.

US engineering company AECOM is understood to still be working with Adani.

<http://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/adani-decides-to-build-coal-mine-itself-to-keep-costs-low/news-story/599a4f5a26154731d541efa0ee366350>

Adani decides to build coal mine itself to keep costs low

Tony Raggatt, *Townsville Bulletin*, 19/12/2017

A spokesman for Downer conceded it was disappointed to have lost work potentially worth more than \$2 billion, adding that any time wasted on the project by a small number of staff was "part of business".

Townsville Enterprise director Michael McMillan said Adani were forging ahead and the organisation would continue to support them. \$

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-12-21/rinehart-backed-alpha-mine-galilee-basin-qld/9273814>

Alpha coal mine venture in Galilee Basin could be preparing for fire sale after long delay, analysts say

Josh Robertson, ABC, 21/12/2017

GVK Hancock lobbyist Josh Euler gave “project updates” to Opposition MP now leader Deb Frecklington, former Opposition environment spokesman Christian Rowan and crossbencher Robbie Katter at three separate fundraisers last month.

This has raised eyebrows among analysts and activists after GVK’s proposed Alpha and Kevin’s Corner mines in the Galilee Basin appeared to be going nowhere because of financial problems.

Institute for Energy Economics and Analysis spokesman Tim Buckley said the GVK venture appeared “absolutely dead” but the company could be preparing for a fire sale.

Electoral Commission of Queensland records show that Mr Euler’s firm Resolution PR declared donations of \$2,900 to the LNP and \$3,000 to Katter’s Australian Party two days before the election.

GVK Hancock slashed its staff and supplier payments from \$6 million to \$870,000 this year.

Ms Rinehart’s own company has declared it unlikely it will ever see the \$630 million it is still owed over the deal.

Aurizon last year wrote off a \$30 million investment in a rail joint venture with GVK to link its mines to Adani’s Abbot Point port.



Former FMG exec confirmed as new BBI Group boss
BBI Group turns to Peter Thomas to head up Pilbara port and rail project.
THEWEST.COM.AU

<https://thewest.com.au/business/mining/former-fmg-exec-confirmed-as-new-bbi-group-boss-ng-b88696609z>

Former FMG exec confirmed as new BBI Group boss

Stuart McKinnon, The West Australian, 20/12/2017

Adani’s project director for the Carmichael coal project has quit the company for BBI Group. Peter Thomas will

replace Nic Curtis as CEO. Mr Thomas is a former Fortescue Metals Group executive. \$

https://newmatilda.com/2017/12/21/gautam-of-thrones-adani-in-australia-explained-through-the-house-of-lannister/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=chris-graham_s-mea-culpa-and-middle-finger-kirsten-norvilas-on-harvey-weins--2017-12-21--08-20-52

Gautam Of Thrones: Adani In Australia Explained Through The House Of Lannister

Briana Charles, New Matilda, 21/12/2017

Arguably, it could be useful to compare some of most notorious players of house lannister, Tywin and Cersei, with the big cahoonas of Adani Ltd, Gautam and Vinod.

Much like our esteemed Tywin Lannister, the father of House Lannister, Vinod [Shantilal, Guatam’s older brother] has acted as the neck of operations, sometimes operating with transparency and a title and sometimes operating more covertly advising from a platform one step removed from official lan-yards.

Now it may be unfair to compare Cersei Lannister, the fear-driven, power-hungry mongrel of the Lannisters to Gautam Adani, the founding father of the Adani corporation. Comparatively Gautam is unlikely to have the same blood lust that Cersei champions, and it’s unlikely he takes a deformed blood hungry giant with him everywhere he goes.

However, one thing they undoubtedly have in common is the protection of self and familial interests over a greater threat.

<https://www.bloombergquint.com/business/2017/12/21/indian-billionaires-who-added-the-most-to-their-riches-in-2017>

Indian Billionaires Who Added The Most To Their Riches In 2017

BQ Desk @bloombergquint, 22/12/2017

Gautam Adani, whose infrastructure group is the country’s largest coal trader, gained \$5.56 billion this year, riding on stock market gains. [This made him second on the list of India’s top performers.]

https://newmatilda.com/2017/12/24/the-numbers-dont-stack-up-wjs-rights-on-the-chopping-block-for-adanis-non-viable-project/?utm_campaign=shareaholic&utm_medium=facebook&utm_source=socialnetwork

The Numbers Don’t Stack Up: W&J’s Rights on the Chopping Block for Adani’s ‘Non Viable’ Project

John Quiggin, New Matilda, 24/12/2017

In the fourth in a five part series on the proposed Adani Carmichael coal mine,

John Quiggin looks at the numbers for the project, and like virtually all other parts of the planned project, they don’t survive closer examination.

He asks, “Why does Adani Enterprises choose to proceed with such a project?”

Three possible answers:

The first is that Adani does not in fact intend to proceed with the project in the near future. Rather, the project is being kept alive with relatively modest expenditure to avoid writing off the large amounts already invested, and to maintain an option in the hope that ‘something will turn up’.

A second hypothesis is that the complexity of the Adani corporate structure is such that Adani could construct the proposed rail line almost entirely with public funds provided on concessional terms, then hope that other coal mines in the Basin would render it profitable.

A third possibility, is that by making continuous new demands on governments for concessions of various kinds, Adani will eventually be able to blame government policy for the project’s failure, and on this basis extract compensation.

Quiggin’s article is recommended reading, click the link above the headline to see it for yourself.

<https://www.michaelwest.com.au/adani-stranded-as-wind-tenders-make-another-record/>

Adani stranded as wind tenders make another record

Michael West, 26/12/2017

Why build a new thermal coal mine, and subsidise it with taxpayers’ money, when renewable energy is half the price?

Tim Buckley, director of Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA), says India demonstrates “continued evidence of rampant, accelerating, massive renewable energy deflation. Faster than anyone thought possible”.

It used to sound hollow, but now the coal lobby catch-cry, “coal is good for the poor people of India” now sounds plainly comical.

A revolution in new energy is afoot globally. Australian people are on board with both the science and the economics. But their government is not. It remains forlornly beholden to the minerals lobby, corporate donations and the ‘revolving doors’ which ensure the flow of human influence between industry and government.

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/adani-palaszczuk-government-not-ruling-out-loan-to-rival-aurizon-for-galilee-basin-rail-line/news-story/2f17fb6e7d4cfabf1f8d90bd4a155dbd4>

Adani: Palaszczuk Government not ruling out loan to rival Aurizon for Galilee Basin rail line

Anthony Galloway, The Courier-Mail, 28/12/2017

A rival rail line into the coal-rich Galilee Basin is gaining traction with the Palaszczuk Government not ruling out vetoing the move to seek a federal government loan.

Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce told The Courier-Mail the proposal by rail giant Aurizon should be seriously considered, now that Indian miner Adani has been blocked from receiving concessional loan from the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF).

A spokesman for Aurizon said it submitted an application to NAIF in March this year and discussions about any loan were commercial-in-confidence. \$

<https://asia.nikkei.com/magazine/20171228/Business/Australia-s-biggest-mine-faces-fresh-hurdles>

Australia's biggest mine faces fresh hurdles

John Power, Nikkei Asian Review, 28/12/2017

"It certainly increases the risk that the project is going to be considered unbankable by global private financial institutions," said Tim Buckley, analyst at the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis. He noted that Adani has been relying on the promise of public funding to make the development appear less risky to private investors.

"Public funding now looks increasingly difficult to get, but I would never want to bet against a billionaire," Buckley added.

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/business/adani-boss-says-it-was-blindsided-by-queensland-government-loan-veto/news-story/7eb24ffee801c099369fee84fd99bd7a>

Adani boss says it was 'blindsided' by Queensland Government loan veto

John McCarthy, The Courier-Mail, 29/12/2017

Energy giant Adani has admitted it was blindsided and shaken by the Palaszczuk Government's sudden decision to veto a Federal Government NAIF loan for the mega-mine.

But the company's Australian boss Jeyakumar Janakaraj yesterday vowed it would not be beaten by environmental activists' relentless campaigning and that the central Queensland proj-

ect would go ahead.

"There is no way they will win," the defiant chief executive said.

And while Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce is pushing for Aurizon to receive NAIF funding for its own Galilee Basin rail line, Mr Janakaraj said using that scheme was not part of Adani's thinking or planning. \$

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/opinion/editorial-premiers-hypocrisy-at-heart-of-sorry-saga/news-story/67e68370debffebde47f048ec1bdc74a>

Editorial: Premier's hypocrisy at heart of sorry saga

The Editor, The Courier-Mail, 29/12/2017

The absurdity and brazen hypocrisy of Queensland's Labor Government on Adani is staggering. It has all the hallmarks of student unionism politicking over the morality of stocking certain soft drinks in campus vending machines. \$

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/adani-coal-megamine-palaszczuk-government-dismisses-complaints-about-naif-veto-impact/news-story/2f3ea27c7ce3383ea3c50d4b-789cf558>

Adani coal megamine: Palaszczuk Government dismisses complaints about NAIF veto impact

John McCarthy, The Courier-Mail, 30/12/2017

"Adani representatives themselves have claimed as far back as 2015 that the commercial viability of their project was not dependent on public funding and in fact started developing their project six years before the NAIF was established," a Palaszczuk Government spokesman said.

"We are confident that even though the company has not met its own self-imposed financial close deadline, this will not deter the project as has been the case previously."

Adani Australia chief executive Jeyakumar Janakaraj said the company had found out about the briefing when Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk announced it at a media conference one week into the state election campaign.

"No one is prepared for bad news. Obviously it shook us," he said. \$

<http://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/state-government-yet-to-clarify-position-on-galilee-rail-link/news-story/56b55afc8c01118f1ed37ae2e7a3d12f>

State Government yet to clarify position on Galilee rail link

Tony Raggatt, Townsville Bulletin, 30/12/2017

Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce says Aurizon's proposal should be

seriously considered now Adani has been blocked by the State Government from receiving a \$1 billion concessional loan from the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility for a rail line for its Carmichael coal mine.

Asked to clarify the Government's position, Treasurer Jackie Trad instead attacked the Federal Government.

"The Federal Government's Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility has not yet seen a single dollar go to a Queensland project," she said in a statement. \$

COAL ROCKS



<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/dec/18/newcastle-worlds-biggest-coal-export-port-announces-shift-away-from-coal>

Newcastle: world's biggest coal export port announces shift away from coal

Michael Slezak, The Guardian, 18/12/2017

Newcastle, the world's largest coal export port, must "urgently" diversify its traffic, the port's incoming chairman has said, warning that the "long-term outlook for coal is a threat to the port".

Coal makes up about 90% of the New South Wales port's throughput, including some of the world's highest quality coal for steel production and electricity generation.

Glen Klatovsky, deputy chief executive of 350.org, called on the government to recognise the fear the transition away from coal would cause, and to manage a "just transition" for workers in the region.

"The Hunter is a beautiful region with an existing tourism industry, agricultural wealth, world-class wineries and horse studs. Newcastle has great education resources, a vibrant health sector and the region has huge potential in renewable energy."

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/demand-for-coal-suffers-a-record-fall-over-past-two-years/news-story/7a9db5d9366484535f8bfed168dece99>

Demand for coal suffers a record fall over past two years

Paul Garvey, *The Australian*, 19/12/2017

Worldwide coal demand has suffered its biggest-ever fall over the past two years as the global revolution under way in energy eats into the market for Australia's second-biggest export.

A detailed annual analysis released last night by the International Energy Agency found that coal demand fell by 1.9 per cent to 5.3 billion tonnes last year, taking the total drop in demand since 2014 to 4.2 per cent.

That fall in demand is the largest in absolute terms ever recorded over a two-year period, and the equal-largest in percentage terms since 1990-92.

The global trend away from coal highlighted by the IEA contrasts with the federal government's strong advocacy for the commodity. The government earlier this year flagged its preparedness to back the construction of new coal power stations as a means of improving electricity supplies on the east coast, with Malcolm Turnbull declaring the government was open to using "clean coal" technology to replace existing generators. \$

http://reneweconomy.com.au/intermittent-another-big-coal-unit-trips-thats-four-in-a-week-47037/#undefined_gbpl

Intermittent: another big coal unit trips, that's four in a week

Renew Economy, 20/12/2017

The failure of the Eraring unit at 6pm on Monday follows unexpected trips at of a 420MW unit at Milmerran in Queensland on Tuesday, a 700MW unit at Mt Piper in NSW on Wednesday, and a 560MW unit at Loy Yang A (unit 3) in Victoria on Thursday.

The Mt Piper unit remains out of service, due to tube leaks, along with a 420MW unit at Liddell (out for six months due to turbine blade issues), and lingering problems at another 560MW unit (Unit 1) at Loy Yang A, which has been out for more than a month since tripping in early November.

It means that, aside from the unexpected trips, the equivalent of another Hazlewood power plant (more in fact) is out of service and unavailable as the summer heat intensifies.

The intermittent and unreliable nature of the coal fired power stations will be of particular concern to the Australian Energy Market Operator, charged with



New Clive Palmer mine could 'gas' drivers on Bruce Highway, doctors warn

Clive Palmer's proposed new central Queensland coal mine poses a potentially toxic health risk to drivers on Australia's main highway north of Rockhampton, project opponents claim.

ABC.NET.AU

keeping the lights on and hoping it has enough reserve capacity to deal with failing coal and gas units.

This week, a task-force commissioned by the NSW government after that February near miss warned of a potential "system black" in NSW and noted the lack of preparedness for such an event.

That conclusion is ironic because the NSW grid, sourcing some 88 per cent of its supply from coal fired generation in 2016/17 has the highest reliance on coal of any grid in the world.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-12-22/clive-palmer-new-coal-mine-could-pose-health-risk-doctors-group/9277646>

Clive Palmer's proposed coal mine could 'gas' drivers on Bruce Highway, doctors group warns

Josh Robertson, *ABC*, 22/12/2017

Clive Palmer's proposed new central Queensland coal mine poses a potentially toxic health risk to drivers on Australia's main highway north of Rockhampton, experts claim.

Blasting on the mine site, which straddles the Bruce Highway, also would likely produce highly toxic nitrogen dioxide that could "gas" travellers, according to Doctors for the Environment Australia (DEA).

DEA spokesman David Shearman, an emeritus professor of medicine from the University of Adelaide, told the ABC that the mine proposal was "a shocker" on public health grounds.

DEA said toxic gas clouds spread up to 6 kilometres from blast sites.

<http://www.theherald.com.au/story/5144620/david-y-go-liath-in-hunter-mine-rehabilitation-legal-case/?cs=305>

Muswellbrook Shire Council is taking on BHP and the Department of Planning over Mount Arthur coal mine

Joanne McCarthy, *Newcastle Herald*, 01/01/2018

Muswellbrook Shire Council has had an early win in a legal case against BHP and the NSW Department of Planning that is shaping up as a test of the independence of the NSW Planning Assessment Commission and the enforceability of its consent conditions.

The council alleges BHP is not complying with PAC consent conditions from 2014 requiring rehabilitation of the giant Mount Arthur open cut coal mine using processes that would leave the final site more closely imitating the natural landscape.

The council argues the Department of Planning's acceptance of a rehabilitation strategy that only includes "natural micro-relief" processes in newly-mined areas raises questions about the independence of the PAC and whether its conditions will be enforced by the NSW Government.

The council responded that it was "manifestly unreasonable" for the Department of Planning to sign off on the rehabilitation strategy because "the mine site as a whole will not be left safe, stable and non-polluting and will not have final landforms incorporating natural micro-relief and natural drainage lines to integrate with the surrounding landforms".

<https://www.dailymercury.com.au/news/renewed-inquiries-into-coal-contamination-on-beach/3300639/>

Renewed inquiries into coal contamination on beaches

Luke Mortimer, The Daily Mercury, 30/12/2017

THE Department of Environment could end up launching a new investigation into coal contamination on Mackay region beaches.

Environmental activist Lance Payne has spent about a year walking Mackay's beaches, collecting coal chunks and fine black material washed up along the shore.

He's been in the department's ear, relentlessly pushing for action on what he describes as a significant environmental issue.

Meanwhile, Mr Payne said he continues to find substantial amounts of coal on beaches in the region.

The Australian Institute of Marine Science released research in 2016 indicating coal dust in seawater can kill corals and slow down the growth rate of seagrasses and fish.

<http://www.miningmonthly.com/coal/environment-coal-wambo-underground-extension-gets-pac-green-light/>

Wambo underground extension gets PAC green light

Lou Caruana, The Mining Monthly, 04/01/2018

Peabody Energy has received approval from the New South Wales Planning Assessment Commission for a modification to extend its Wambo Coal Mine's underground operations, which will involve extracting an extra 18 million tonnes of coal from nine additional underground longwalls.

The approval means the life of the Wambo Coal Underground Mine, located near Warkworth, is extended by seven years until 2039.

<http://www.smh.com.au/comment/environmental-watchdog-lost-its-bite-under-buffier-20180104-h0d2w.html>

Environmental watchdog lost its bite under Buffier

James Whelan, Sydney Morning Herald, 05/01/2018

During the summer break, Barry Buffier quietly announced his resignation as chief executive and chair of the NSW Environment Protection Authority.... Buffier – and the EPA under his leadership – came to be known as a toothless environmental tiger, captured by polluters and the corporations that harm the state's environment.

Buffier's management of the state's air environment has been the source of

particular criticism. Under his watch, particle pollution from the state's 30-odd open-cut coal mines trebled. Coarse particle pollution (PM10) from explosions, digging, hauling, dumping and wheel dust causes up to 80 air pollution alerts a month in the Hunter Valley. Despite an excellent air pollution monitoring network that provides community members with immediate access to data and pollution alerts, Buffier's EPA team have failed to regulate this powerful polluter.

So, too, the authority has failed to control emissions of toxic gases and fine particle pollution (PM2.5) from power stations and motor vehicles, the state's main sources of these pollutants.

On his watch, a controversial study of air pollution from uncovered coal trains in Newcastle, the world's largest coal export port, had its findings revised to dismiss the conclusion that uncovered coal wagons cause elevated levels of particle pollution in densely populated suburbs and that they should be covered. To this day, Newcastle's coal trains remain uncovered.

GAS, GAS, GAS

<https://thetimes.com.au/business/oil-gas/carbon-hiccup-for-chevron-with-5-million-tonne-greenhouse-gas-problem-at-gorgon-lng-plant-ng-b88694565z>

Carbon hiccup for Chevron with 5 million-tonne greenhouse gas problem at Gorgon LNG plant

Peter Milne, The West Australian, 19/12/2017

Technical problems with Chevron's landmark effort to store carbon dioxide from the Gorgon LNG project may see more than five million tonnes of greenhouse gas released into the atmosphere over two years.

The \$2.5 billion program to inject CO2 from the offshore Gorgon gas field underneath the Pilbara's Barrow Island is a major plank of the \$US54 billion project and the recipient of \$60 million in Federal Government funding.

A Chevron report to the State Government released yesterday said start-up checks this year found leaking valves, valves that could corrode and excess water in the pipeline from the LNG plant to the injection wells that could cause the pipeline to corrode.

The delay will make it difficult for Chevron to meet a condition imposed by the Environmental Protection Act in 2009 that at least 80 per cent of the CO2 extracted from the gas reservoirs over any five-year period is injected underground.

Conservation Council WA director

Piers Verstegen said Gorgon was one of the biggest sources of carbon pollution in Australia. If the CO2 injection could not be made to work then the emissions must be offset in some other way, he said. \$

<http://www.smh.com.au/business/santos-increases-its-domestic-gas-supply-20171220-p4yxx4.html>

Santos increases its domestic gas supply

Cole Latimer, Sydney Morning Herald, 20/12/2017

Santos has signed a deal with Origin to supply 15 petajoules of gas to the domestic market.

The gas will be supplied from Santos' Gladstone LNG project (GLNG), in Queensland.

This latest supply accounts for around two per cent of Australia's total 2018 domestic gas demand, and a significant proportion of the Australian Consumer and Competition Commission's forecast supply shortfall.

<http://www.theland.com.au/story/5135480/canavan-of-fiers-up-26-million-for-gas-industry/>

'Acceleration' incentive for miners

Daniel Pedersen, The Land, 21/12/2017

The government's \$26-million "Gas Acceleration Program" will open to applications early in the new year, to further strengthen the east coast gas market.

Guidelines for the GAP were released on Wednesday, ahead of grant applications opening in January.

<http://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/5137792/csg-chemical-concerns-dismissed-by-industry/>

Coal seam gas chemical health risks dismissed by industry

Jamieson Murphy, Northern Daily Leader, 29/12/2017

COAL seam gas opponents say recently released assessments of the chemicals used in the mining process reiterate the health dangers of the industry.

However, the concerns have been dismissed by the industry, which says the examples assume no safety regulations are in place.

Reports by the CSIRO and NICNAS modelled the exposure pathways of chemicals through water contamination and examined the risk of spills, accidents and leaks.

RARE EARTHS

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-01-05/epa-approves-rare-earth-mine-in-central-australia/9306610>

EPA approves \$900m rare earths mine in Central Australia despite radioactive risk

Ben Millington, ABC, 05/12/2018

A proposed \$900 million rare earths mine in Central Australia has been recommended for approval by the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (EPA), after an assessment process lasting more than two years.

Arafura Resources' Nolans Project at Aileron, 135 kilometres north-west of Alice Springs, would mine rare earth materials such as neodymium and praseodymium, used to manufacture strong magnets for wind turbines and electric vehicles.

The primary risks include the permanent storage of naturally occurring radioactive material onsite and the use of significant groundwater resources over the 35 to 55-year lifespan of the project.

It is estimated the project will use 2.7 gigalitres of groundwater a year, and the EPA has recommended aquifer levels and water usage be monitored in real-time with data made available to the public.

Arafura Resources Sustainability manager Brian Fowler said the low level of radioactive material produced in the processing of rare earth material would be stored onsite in purpose-built dams.

A financial investment decision will be made in the late part of this year.

MINING POLITICS

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-12-19/bhp-threatens-minerals-council-withdrawal/9271472>

BHP set to leave World Coal Association, threatens Minerals Council withdrawal

Michael Janda, ABC, 19/12/2017

Australian mining giant BHP is set to pull out of the World Coal Association and is threatening to leave the Minerals Council of Australia over differences on climate change policy.

The company has published a 22-page report outlining key climate and energy policy differences between it and several of the lobby groups it is a member of.

The company said it is also considering its future as part of the US Chamber of Commerce.

<http://www.smh.com.au/business/bhp-to-stay-a-member-of-the-minerals-council-at-least-for-now-20171219-p4yxue.html>

BHP to stay a member of the Minerals Council - at least for now

Darren Gray, Sydney Morning Herald, 19/12/2017

The world's biggest miner, BHP, will remain a member of the Minerals Council of Australia - at least for now - but has signalled it has reached a "preliminary view" that it intends to leave the World Coal Association, after a review of its membership of industry associations.

BHP also revealed publicly for the first time how much it contributes to the minerals council, with the "Big Australian" paying a subscription fee of \$1.86 million to the group in the 2016 calendar year.

<http://www.smh.com.au/business/coal-lobby-group-delivers-a-rebuke-to-bhp-20171220-p4yxwy.html>

'Disappointed' coal lobby group delivers a rebuke to BHP

Darren Gray, Sydney Morning Herald, 20/12/2017

The World Coal Association has hit back at mining giant BHP, saying the miner inaccurately depicted the views of the association on climate and energy policy in a BHP report released this week.

In a written statement released on Tuesday night the chairman of the WCA, Mick Buffier, hit back at BHP.

"A visit to the WCA website will find the first item listed as 'A pathway to zero emissions from coal, supporting the deployment of all low emission technologies'. We hope to be able to continue working with BHP on this basis in the future," he said.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/opinion/bhps-extraordinary-call-on-power-policy/news-story/2031062258367301f41b3449826d2ebc>

BHP's extraordinary call on power policy

Matt Chambers, The Australian, 20/12/2017

BHP Billiton is the world's biggest miner. But it might just be worst candidate among Minerals Council of Australia members to steer the debate on east coast energy policy on behalf of the minerals industry.

This is because BHP is unique among major MCA members in being a net beneficiary of higher east coast energy prices and lower domestic coal demand, thanks to its 50 per cent share in the big gas fields of Bass Strait.



<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/commentis-free/2017/dec/22/a-lump-of-coal-metaphor-for-a-wretched-year-for-malcolm-turnbull>

A lump of coal - metaphor for a wretched year for Malcolm Turnbull

Peter Lewis, The Guardian, 22/12/2017

The moment that summed up the political year 2017 for me came in the first sitting week when treasurer Scott Morrison marched into parliament brandishing a lump of coal.

"This is coal - don't be afraid, don't be scared", the treasurer cried out maniacally, before passing it along his front bench where Barnaby Joyce proceeded to fondle it like Gollum his precious ring.

The coal stunt was a none-too-subtle attempt to shift the focus of energy policy away from the imperative of transitioning to a renewable future by opening a new wave of investment in fossil fuels.

The premeditated stunt locked the Coalition in behind a coal lobby that had been running a coordinated campaign to besmirch renewables since an extreme weather event had led to blackouts in South Australia in late 2016.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-12-28/barnaby-joyce-bullet-sender-charged/9290764>

Barnaby Joyce: Armidale man charged over bullet death threat sent to Deputy PM's office

ABC, 28/12/2017

Police arrested a 74-year-old man at Armidale Police Station this morning, and charged him with using a carriage service to menace, harass or offend as well as stalking, intimidating with intent to cause fear of physical harm.

Police also allege the man made a threatening phone call on December 23.

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/74-year-old-charged-over-sending-a-bullet-to-barnaby-joyces-office-20171228-h0b0o6.html>

74-year-old charged over sending a bullet to Barnaby Joyce's office

Eryk Bagshaw, Sydney Morning Herald, 28/12/2017

Armidale man Neville Newman will face court on charges of stalking and using a carriage service to cause offence to the Deputy Prime Minister.

It came a month after Mr Newman allegedly sent a bullet to Mr Joyce's Tamworth electorate office along with concerns about Queensland's Adani coal mine.

Mr Newman is also alleged to have made a threatening phone call to a home on the night before Christmas Eve.

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/74-year-old-charged-with-allegedly-sending-bullets-to-deputy-pm-news-story/c84e2f764cd0b9d84c79580eb3def0e8>

74-year-old charged with allegedly sending bullets to Deputy PM

Sally Rawsthorne, The Daily Telegraph, 28/12/2017

Armidale man Neville Newman has been charged after police allegedly found bullets at his home which match those which were sent to the National party leader at his Peel St office in November.

Newman has also been charged with making a threatening phone call to Joyce's parents, Marie and James, on Saturday 23 December. \$

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/senior-citizen-allegedly-sent-barnaby-joyce-byelection-bullet/news-story/bc432c8e550db03082fd0d862139620e>

Senior citizen allegedly sent Barnaby Joyce byelection bullet

Joe Kelly, The Australian, 28/12/2017

A 74-year-old man has been charged after allegedly sending a threatening letter with a bullet to Barnaby Joyce's electorate office in Tamworth in the lead-up to the New England bye-election, in northern NSW. \$

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/dec/31/a-great-year-for-clean-energy-in-australia-ends-while-bad-news-for-coal-continues>

A great year for clean energy in Australia ends, while bad news for coal continues

Simon Holmes à Court, The Guardian, 31/12/2017

In 20 years we'll look back on 2017 as a turning point for the climate challenge.

Renewable energy broke new records — China installed seven solar panels a second and India's energy minister

now expects to install 200GW of renewables by 2022.

Throughout the year the Minerals Council of Australia drove hard their campaign for new "high efficiency, low emissions" (HELE) coal that was swallowed hook, line and sinker by many in parliament and the media.

On any analysis, HELE is not new, not highly efficient, not low emissions and not cheap — HELE is nothing more than a cynical rebranding exercise.

The federal government threw another lifeline to coal by reintroducing carbon capture and storage (CCS) into the debate. Never mind that the only two demonstration plants globally are small, expensive and loss-making, or that the Australian National Audit Office found that the \$1bn spent in Australia over a decade on CCS has yielded approximately nothing.

More than 50 large-scale renewable energy projects are either under construction or have been completed in Australia in 2017 totalling 4,670MW, as much as was built over the first 15 years of the renewable energy target. Australian households installed more rooftop solar than any year since 2012 when subsidies were three times as generous — no other country has a higher take-up of residential solar.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/climate-group-350org-may-lose-charity-status-over-protest-call/news-story/1fb7d8e3890deddb1762a684fb478a5e>

Climate group 350.org may lose charity status over protest call

Joe Kelly, The Australian, 06/01/2018

Climate group 350.org is being investigated by the federal government's charities regulator to determine whether it promoted unlawful activities, with The Australian obtaining video of its Australian chief executive Blair Palese appearing to encourage anti-coal protesters to break the law.

Resources Minister Matt Canavan seized on the footage of Ms Palese, telling The Australian that her conduct gave "all charities a bad name."

According to its financial statement for the year ended June 30 2017 lodged with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), 350.org recorded a total income of \$1.2 million nearly entirely sourced through donations including \$641,598 from "foundations" and \$110,260 in the form of "international" donations.

The ACNC, now headed by former Keating government minister Gary Johns, told The Australian it was "investigating (350.org's) activities and

operations" but was constrained from saying anything publicly due to the "secrecy provisions in the ACNC Act." \$

<http://www.smh.com.au/business/mining-and-resources/the-ground-is-shifting-under-bhp-20180104-h0dd55.html>

The ground is shifting under BHP

Josh Bornstein, Sydney Morning Herald, 05/01/2018

In a remarkable development late last year, the world's biggest miner made the momentous declaration that it would quit the World Coal Association, citing "material differences" on climate and energy policy.

Following its months-long internal review, BHP also put the Minerals Council of Australia (MCA) on notice, declaring that it would no longer tolerate the MCA running campaigns that sabotaged sensible climate change and energy policy.

Given the disproportionate influence of the mining industry lobby in Australian politics, this is an outcome to be welcomed. But the question remains: Why didn't BHP simply sack the Minerals Council?

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/education/greenies-turn-off-minings-gen-next-in-alarming-drop-in-enrolments/news-story/95bce3812656c7e8001783eb458e6b2b>

Greenies turn off mining's Gen Next in alarming drop in enrolments

Syd Maher, The Australian, 06/01/2018

Attacks by green activists on the resources industry are turning millennials off mining jobs, sparking warnings the industry will face some of the toughest recruitment conditions in 20 years unless it confronts the problem.

The Minerals Council of Australia's interim chief executive David Byers told The Weekend Australian: "It's unfortunate that sustained attacks from misinformed activists have dissuaded some young people from looking at a career in mining."

Expected enrolments in mining engineering have almost halved in the past 12 months and are projected to halve again by the end of the decade. MCA figures suggest mining engineering enrolments have dropped from 171 last year to 98 this year and are on track to fall to 69 next year and 47 in 2020. \$

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