



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 1:39 • 28 AUGUST 2018

New Prime Minister to govern for coal

The man who brought a lump of coal into parliament to berate those advocating the clean renewable energy Australians want has been elevated to the prime ministership.

Last Friday the Liberal Party voted to install Scott Morrison as their new leader, after a right-wing push tore down former prime minister Malcolm Turnbull – largely because of his do-nothing National Energy Guarantee (NEG).

“Make no mistake, Scott Morrison is just a more polished version of Tony Abbott,” Greenpeace Australia Pacific Campaigner Alix Foster Vander Elst said.

“Morrison served both Abbott and Turnbull. He has shown over his career that he is driven by political self-interest and will not hesitate to continue selling out the environment at the behest of his mates in the fossil fuel industry.

Ms Foster Vander Elst said Morrison would do little to change the established history of inaction on climate change and abandonment of the environment that had characterised the last 10 years of federal leadership.

Politicians fiddle while Australia burns

“With large sections of Australia in severe drought and being scorched by dozens of mid-winter bushfires, Morrison is a leader the country simply cannot afford – we absolutely need someone willing to act on climate change,” she said.

“For the last few weeks Australians have watched in disgust while a government focused on itself played parliamentary games, even as the country



Scott Morrison used a lump of coal as a prop during a parliamentary debate on energy, February 2017. Photo: Andrew Meares

literally burned around them.

“And now, as Australians are dealing with the devastating impacts of climate change – fires, droughts, bleaching reefs – the far right of the Liberal party has installed a prime minister who parades around parliament brandishing a lump of coal, rather than working to protect the future of this country.

“It’s not good enough. The people of Australia deserve better.”

Fossil fools’ enthusiasm burns bright

Fossil fuel interests greeted Morrison’s elevation with enthusiasm. The Queensland Resources Council congratulated him.

“Scott Morrison knows what makes regional Queensland tick, and he understands the importance of our most valuable industries – like resources,”

QRC Chief Executive Ian Macfarlane said.

“In recent times we’ve seen him make several visits to some of our resources heartlands in Central and North Queensland. And we know he’s a fan of the coal industry, which he proved on the floor of Parliament.

“His new deputy, Josh Frydenberg, is a former resources minister, and will have seen first-hand how many Queenslanders rely on the resources sector for their jobs, and the contribution these tens of thousands of people make to our economy.

“The QRC also commends the contribution of Malcolm Turnbull during his time as Prime Minister, in particular his focus on energy policy.

“We look forward to the new lead-

• Continued p2

• P 2: Knitting Nannas act up at AgQuip

• P 4: Fracking destroying US water supply

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

Morrison will be governing for the fossil fools

• Continued from p1

ership team turning their attention to implementing a policy to provide affordable and reliable energy for households and industry.”

Melissa Price becomes Environment Minister and Angus Taylor is now Energy Minister.

The Murdocracy element

Bruce Guthrie, writing in *The New Daily*, illustrated the prominent role of the Murdoch media in rolling yet another PM over climate and energy policy.

“Anyone who doubts Rupert Murdoch’s role in the political chaos that has played out in recent days has never worked for him at a senior level,” said Guthrie, a former News Corp journalist.

“Murdoch’s annual visits to Australia invariably trigger seismic events both in and outside News Corp ... so is it any surprise that Malcolm Turnbull is facing his political demise less than a fortnight after Murdoch arrived here? Of course it isn’t.

“Murdoch flew in on August 10 and set about doing what he always does: he attended the annual News Awards ...

“For good measure Murdoch also attended the 75th birthday of the Institute of Public Affairs on Monday night and was interviewed on stage

with former Liberal PM, John Howard, by one of the media tycoon’s preferred columnists, Janet Albrechtsen.

“Throughout all this he would have been forming a view that Turnbull’s time was up – in fact, he probably arrived with that view – and then imparted that message to his editors.

“He wouldn’t have had to tell his columnists or his TV commentators because they arrived at that view months ago and have been preaching it ad nauseum. Foremost here have been Andrew Bolt, Miranda Devine and Peta Credlin.

“They have been aided by an army of Sydney shock jocks, notably Alan Jones, Ray Hadley and Paul Murray.

“In the end it took just 11 days after Murdoch’s arrival to bring about a party room spill. It played out less than 24 hours after that IPA appearance.”

The IPA’s biggest sponsor is mining magnate Gina Rinehart, whose multi-million dollar donations recently came to light as evidence in court during a family feud.

The fossil fuel industry and the Murdoch media are as prominent in toppling Malcolm Turnbull as his vengeful predecessor Tony Abbott. And they all want coal burning bright into the future.

FFB

Nuke waste vote blocked

Labor and the Liberal Government have teamed up to block a Greens motion seeking to extend the community vote on a nuclear waste dump being built in outback South Australia.

“The Liberal Government has botched its so-called consultation and community vote plans in a desperate attempt to get a run on the board.

“Ignoring the views of Traditional Owners in both the Barngarla and Adnyamathanha communities will be at the Government’s peril,” Greens nuclear spokesperson Senator Sarah Hanson-Young said.

“The Liberal Government has disrespected local communities, failed to gain consent of Traditional Owners, and has no mandate to build a nuclear waste dump in South Australia.

“While it is important that the Hawker and Kimba communities have their say, this is an issue that could also have implications for the regional towns that this waste would pass through on the way to its final destination.

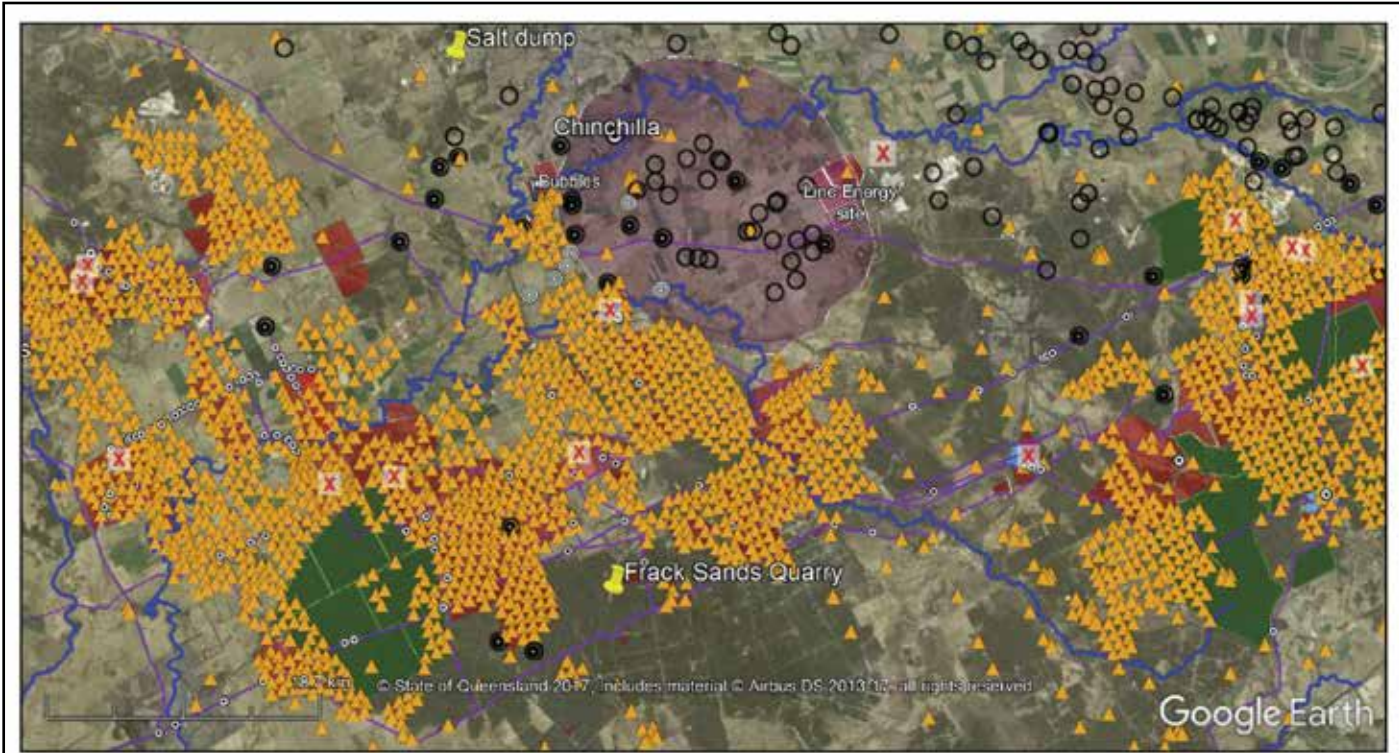
“The people of Whyalla, Port Pirie and Port Lincoln also have a right to be angry at secret plans to have ships full of nuclear waste arriving on their doorstep.”

Knitting Nannas act up at AgQuip in Gunnedah

The Knitting Nannas have been acting up at AgQuip, Australia’s biggest agriculture exhibition. They held a knit-in outside Shenhua’s Gunnedah HQ and did a bit of street theatre, sprinkling coal dust in their cereal bowls to make a point about coal mining on the Liverpool Plains. They were joined by Farmers From the Plains.







Narrabri CSG & health conference sees gas impact



GASFIELD IMPACT MAP - WESTERN DARLING DOWNS

- Gas well
- A few of the immediately impacted/longterm impacted stock & domestic water bores – Walloon Coal Measures
- A few of the stock & domestic bores made good 2016 (now removed from Google maps)
- NPI data point
- Pipeline lease/ Gas pipeline
- Waterway
- Previously privately owned land now Multi-national Gas company land
- State Forest company land
- Linc Energy EHP Excavation Caution Zone

 <p>29:29</p>	 <p>21:57</p>	 <p>31:25</p>	 <p>25:33</p>
<p>Applying Health Impact Assessment in Coal Seam...</p>	<p>"Mental Health concerns for CSG host communities"</p>	<p>A Perspective on the Gasfield from the Kitchen Table</p>	<p>Are emissions from the UG industry associated w/...</p>

People who attended the Coal Seam Gas & Public Health Conference at Narrabri this month were impressed with the information they heard from speakers. Shay Dougall illustrated her talk with the map above, showing the invasion of the Darling Downs by the gasfields. Other presenters were Dr Gerylann McCarron, Dr Helen Redmond, Dr Methuen Morgan and Professor Melissa Haswell.

The presentations are now available on Youtube and Soundcloud:



https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9qvzmz534PHh9fkg0Jnhw?view_as=subscriber and <https://soundcloud.com/nwpa>




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

SACRIFICE ZONE

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

<https://vimeo.com/257444267>

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

Fracking is destroying US water supply, warns new study with implications for Australia

Toxic wastewater from fracking jumps 14-fold from 2011 to 2016 – and it may get 50 times bigger by 2030.

Joe Romm, *ThinkProgress*

An alarming new study reveals fracking is quite simply destroying America's water supply.

That means we are losing potable water forever in many semi-arid regions of the country, while simultaneously producing more carbon pollution that in turn is driving ever-worsening droughts in those same regions, as fracking expert Anthony Ingraffea, a professor at Cornell University, explained to *ThinkProgress*.

Water use per well up 770%

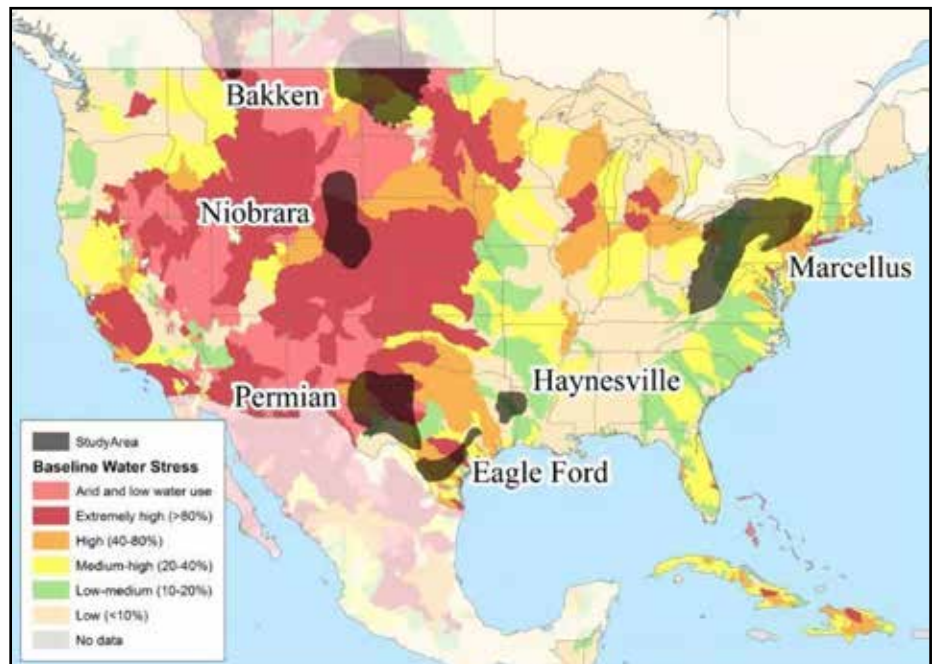
The game-changing study from Duke University found that “from 2011 to 2016, the water use per well increased up to 770 percent.” In addition, the toxic wastewater produced in the first year of production jumped up to 1440 percent.

“Previous studies suggested hydraulic fracturing does not use significantly more water than other energy sources, but those findings were based only on aggregated data from the early years of fracking,” explained co-author Avner Vengosh, a professor of geochemistry and water quality at Duke.

“After more than a decade of fracking operation, we now have more years of data to draw upon from multiple verifiable sources,” said Vengosh. The researchers looked at data on water used – and oil, gas, and wastewater produced – for over 12,000 wells from 2011 to 2016.”

Ingraffea, who was not involved in the study, explained that while first generation wells used 3 to 5 millions gallons of water, current third generation wells use 10 to 30 million gallons. Ingraffea – who worked with the fossil fuel industry for three decades and has been co-editor-in-chief of the journal *Engineering Fracture Mechanics* since 2005 – noted that the federal government “forecasts a million more such wells in the next 20 years.”

That would mean trillions of gallons of water used.



The Duke study warns that the water footprint of fracking could jump as much as 50-fold in some areas by 2030, “raising concerns about its sustainability, particularly in arid or semi-arid regions in western states, or other areas where groundwater supplies are stressed.”

As their analysis shows, some of the fracking sites that are seeing the biggest jump in water footprint per well – like the Permian and Eagle Ford Basins – are also located in highly water-stressed areas (see chart above).

Fracking water lost to humanity

One key point the study makes is that, unlike other energy sources, much of the water fracking uses is essentially lost to humanity. Either the water doesn't escape the shale formation or, when it does come back to the surface, it “is highly saline, is difficult to treat, and is often disposed through deep injection wells.”

Therefore, even though other forms of energy have a higher intensity of water use, “the permanent loss of water use for hydraulic fracturing from the hydrosphere” may still be higher.

The study also points out that the world has seen “rapidly diminishing global water resources due to population growth and climate change.”

Yet countless studies show that because the fracking process leaks

so much methane – a highly potent greenhouse gas – fracked gas isn't a climate solution. In fact, “natural gas could warm the planet as much as coal in the short term,” one major 24-author study from June concluded. So those who continue touting fracked gas as a bridge to a low-carbon future are not keeping up with the latest science.

And so, we have the tragic situation where we are using up one of our most precious non-renewable resources, water, to produce oil and gas, which worsens the stress on our water system.

Water exchanged for fossil fuels

As Ingraffea put it, “shale gas/oil is exchanging absurd volumes of water for absurd volumes of fossil fuels at a time where using the latter is jeopardizing the availability of the former.” At the same time, fracking “is exchanging precious volumes of water usable for drinking and farming for toxic volumes of wastewater most of which has to be transported and injected underground,” at grave risk to underground sources of drinking water. Finally, “most of what is not transported and injected stays underground, an exchange of H₂O for CO₂.” Therefore, almost all of what arrives at a well is forever lost to the water cycle.”

Fracking is truly a Faustian bargain.



David Rowe reproduced with permission: <https://www.facebook.com/david.rowe.5070>

Inside the news

Another Prime Minister has been **rolled over climate and energy policy**, with help from **Murdoch and the miners**. Apart from FFB's upfront story, a selection of media coverage appears on pages 10-12.

Of equal concern for farmers and rural/regional people is the **National Party's** extraordinary chorus of **support for coal** (bottom of p9). Deputy leader Bridget McKenzie kicked off with a spray of the **c-word (coal)** joined by leader and deputy PM Michael McCormack, resources minister Matt Canavan, agriculture leader David Littleproud and a burst from Senator George Christensen. The **biggest mistake for country people** seeking climate change action and protection from the invasive mining industry is to keep voting for the Nats. Just don't do it!

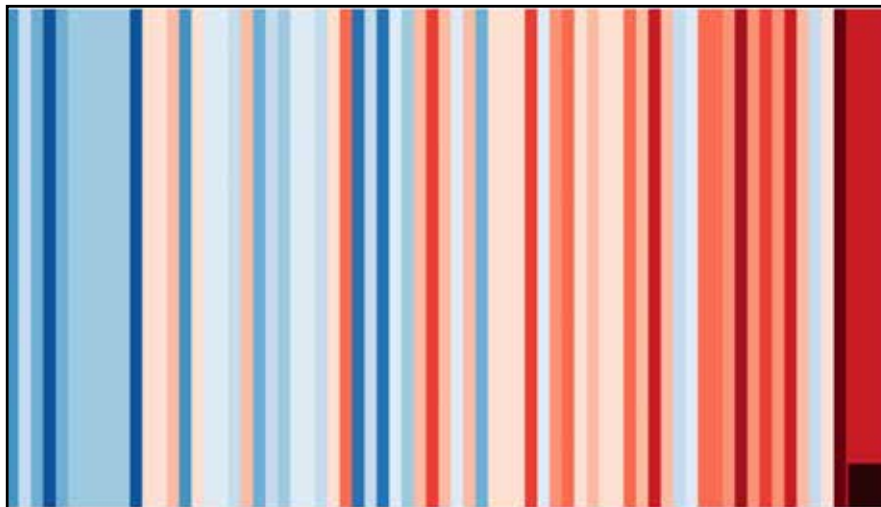
Adani's new Australian mining boss, **Lucas Dow**, launched a counter-attack to anti-Adani forces with 'myth-busting' speeches and interviews. He got coverage in the Murdoch media such as the *Townsville Bulletin* and *Courier-Mail* (p6).

Prospective gas importers **AGL** and **AIE** are **putting in their orders** for floating storage regasification units (FSRUs). Neither has final approval for their projects but AIE's **Port Kembla** terminal has been given priority status by the NSW government. No discernable community opposition has emerged. **Crib Point** residents in Victoria, however, are turning out to demonstrate against AGL's plan for their peaceful harbour and politicians have given mixed responses. The Save Westernport community group is concerned **extensive works** to prepare a jetty for AGL's FSRU have begun, despite **no approval** having been granted for the terminal or its associated pipeline (p8).

In an Australian first, approval for Gloucester's **Rocky Hill** coal mine is being **challenged in court** on the grounds **climate change** was not considered when the mine was ticked off. The NSW Environmental Defenders Office is running the case for Groundswell Gloucester.

Meanwhile, **the planet is cooking**, as demonstrated by the graphic at left.

Graphic displays Australia's climate crisis



How Australia's average annual mean temperatures have changed between 1910 and 2017, with the dark blue showing the coldest at 20.7 degrees and 23.0 degrees the darkest red, according to Ed Hawkins, a UK-based climate scientist.

Photo: Ed Hawkins/University of Reading.

Peter Hannam, writing in the Sydney Morning Herald, says subtle shifts in temperature can be hard for people to appreciate.

"Visual aids, such as the colour scales (above) created by Ed Hawkins, a professor at the National Centre for Atmospheric Science at the UK's University of Reading, can help us understand how Australia has warmed," he explained.

"In Australia's case, taking mean temperatures from 1910 to 2017 and mapping the coolest year (20.7

degrees) as dark blue and the hottest (23 degrees) as dark red, it should be obvious which way the mercury is trending.

"Evaporation levels across eastern Australia are at record levels for the first seven months of 2018.

"NSW is entirely drought-declared and the outlook is for a drier and hotter than normal spring for many areas – all this as crews have fought dozens of fires across the state even before spring arrives" Hannam said.

In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 17,000 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/crime-court/traditional-owners-vow-to-keep-up-the-fight-for-land-rights-over-adani-mine-site/news-story/0b1dbc-c527ee7378bc52da05fe48e20f>

Traditional owners vow to keep up the fight for land rights over Adani mine site

Scott Sawyer, Townsville Bulletin, 20/08/2018

Traditional owners have vowed to keep fighting to defend their land rights against Adani.

The announcement came after a Federal Court decision to uphold Adani's indigenous Land Use Agreement with the Wangan and Jagalingou people, which has given the State Government the opportunity to cancel all native title over the Carmichael Mine site.

The Wangan and Jagalingou traditional owners are preparing an appeal and have called on the State Government not to extinguish native title on any part of their land. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/business/how-adanis-carmichael-coal-will-stack-up-for-asian-markets/news-story/fd7f0fe0da46becc148a992f20aaa197>

How Adani's Carmichael coal will stack up for Asian markets

Tony Raggatt, Townsville Bulletin, 24/08/2018

Adani's Carmichael project will have significant cost and proximity advantages to supply thermal coal into India, China and South East Asia, the company's CEO Lucas Dow says.

Mr Dow was commenting ahead of an address to a North Queensland Club lunch in Townsville where he will tackle the "myths and mysteries" of the Central Queensland project. ...

"240 million Indian people still lack access to electricity and by 2030 there will be over 850 million Indian people wanting to use the internet. Renewables is part of the solution but it won't be enough to meet the rapid increase in energy demand. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/adani-says-it-will-hit-the-ground-running-on-carmichael-mine/news-story/d5a16413168a200660278a0574975af1>

Adani says it will hit the ground running on Carmichael mine

Tony Raggatt, Townsville Bulletin, 25/08/2018

[Interviewing Adani Mining CEO Lucas Dow in the company's Townsville



office which is the base for work on its Carmichael coal project]:

Q. Why are you in Townsville today?

A. It is a chance to demystify the myths and inaccuracies that surround the Carmichael project. We want to ensure people are clear about why the project does stack up economically, environmentally, from a social perspective and operationally as well. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/adani-boss-debunks-the-myths-surrounding-carmichael-mine/news-story/d12a969d9780670aae1afb179738d864>

Adani boss debunks the myths surrounding Carmichael mine

John McCarthy, Courier-Mail, 25/08/2018

Adani has called for an end to the myths which have made its Carmichael mine the most demonised project in Australia.

The company's Australian mining boss, Lucas Dow, said misinformation and rumours had delayed the project for years and led to "other countries eating our lunch".

"I am entirely comfortable about people having different opinions about our project. The only thing I would ask is that it is based on facts and that people judge us on our actions," Mr Dow said. ...

As for whether the mine would create 10,000 jobs as Adani has long claimed – and which led to questions at a federal level about if the project was in the national interest – Mr Dow would not confirm an exact number. ...

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5597925/what-price-a-road-in-singleton-a-cool-275-million/?cs=7573>

Singleton Shire Council has sold Wallaby Scrub Road to a coal mine for \$27.5 million, but residents aren't happy

Joanne McCarthy, Newcastle Herald, 21/08/2018

Singleton Shire Council has accepted \$27.5 million for the sale of Wallaby Scrub Road to Yancoal to allow expansion of the Mount Thorley coal mine.

But outraged residents have advised the NSW Government not to gazette

the sale as they seek legal advice after nine years of opposing the closure.

“What the council has accepted is a disgraceful amount of money given what is at stake,” said Bulga Milbrodale Progress Association spokesperson John Krey after the council released a statement confirming the sale price following a confidential meeting on Monday.

The council confirmed the road sale was driven by the mine expansion which required the road closure. ...

Bulga Milbrodale Progress Association spokesperson John Krey said the decision was made despite 1100 vehicle movements on Wallaby Scrub Road each day and the closure meaning an additional 10 minutes’ travel for users.

“Bulga Rural Fire Service is first responder for the Golden Highway and it will have to add 10 minutes to its response time. That can mean the difference between life and death,” Mr Krey said. ...

<https://www.theherald.com.au/news/local-news/5599537/rocky-hill-coal-mine-a-threat-to-paris-agreement-obligations-court-told/>

Gloucester’s controversial Rocky Hill coking coal mine hears Australia-first climate change evidence

Joanne McCarthy, *Newcastle Herald*, 21/08/2018

Gloucester’s controversial Rocky Hill open cut coal mine proposal cannot be approved if Australia is to meet its obligations under the global Paris Agreement on climate change, a court has heard.

Climate change expert Professor Will Steffen gave evidence on Tuesday for the first time in an Australian court about the need for no new fossil fuel developments to be approved if Australia is to avoid overspending its carbon budget under the agreement. ...

On Tuesday energy analyst Tim Buckley explained to the court how financial mechanisms and market changes that are driving investments away from coal would create a risk that Rocky Hill would become a stranded asset. Mr Buckley is Australasian director of energy finance studies at the Institute of Energy Economics and Financial Analysis. ...

The NSW Environmental Defenders Office, which is running the case for Groundswell Gloucester, said the appeal was the first hearing of its kind since the Paris Agreement in which an Australian court heard expert testimony about climate change, the

carbon budget and the impacts of the burning of fossil fuels.

The hearing continues.

<https://www.southburnettimes.com.au/news/new-documentary-captures-the-coal-mine-struggle/3501368/>

New documentary captures the coal mine struggle

Jessica McGrath, *Sth Burnett Times*, 23/08/2018

A group of film makers visited the South Burnett to learn about the Kingaroy coal mine.

Kingaroy Concerned Citizens Group welcomed the young documentary makers who came to the South Burnett from August 11 to 12.

They intended to make a feature-length documentary about the potential impact of the Kingaroy coal mine if the project proposed by mining company Moreton Resources goes ahead. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/agl-ceo-veseys-exit-wont-change-plan-to-shut-liddell-coal-plant/news-story/91a87370780672efb1cd7200d1d5895>

AGL CEO Veseys’ exit won’t change plan to shut Liddell coal plant

Andrew White, *The Australian*, 25/08/2018

AGL Energy says there will be no change in its plans for the Liddell Power Station after reaching agreement yesterday to part ways with Andy Veseys, whose four years as chief executive were marked by a bitter fight with Canberra over the future of the ageing coal-fired generator. ...

AGL, still the country’s biggest polluter – thanks to its ownership of brown and black coal generators such as Loy Yang A in Victoria and the Liddell and

Bayswater plants in NSW – announced plans to exit coal completely by 2050.

But Mr Veseys clashed repeatedly with the federal government over his refusal to sell or extend the life of Liddell beyond its planned 2022 closure. ...

<https://www.illawarramercury.com.au/story/5605829/masked-protest-against-secrecy-on-wollongong-coal-order/>

Masked protest against ‘secrecy’ on Wollongong Coal order

Ben Langford, *Illawarra Mercury*, 24/08/2018

A group of Illawarra environmentalists wore disguises on Friday as they staged a protest in slow motion over Wollongong Coal’s Russell Vale slag heap. The protest was staged to coincide with Wollongong Coal’s annual general meeting which was held on Friday in Towradgi.

Illawarra Residents for Responsible Mining (IRRM) said Wollongong City Council (WCC) had known for years about the unlawful 200,000 tonne stockpile, which is partly on public land, but had been too slow to act.

And the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) had not made public its recent order that the miner remove the stockpile, IRRM’s Kaye Osborn said. ...

“Wollongong City Council [has] been shirking its responsibility to put an end date on the final remediation of the slag heap, and the return of the portion of the slag heap land that is owned by council for the benefit of council and its ratepayers,” she said.

“We have been campaigning for years for this enormous pile of waste coal to be removed. It’s unlawful and poses many risks to our community.”

Veseys’ exit won’t change AGL plan to shut coal plant

ANDREW WHITE
ENERGY

AGL Energy says there will be no change in its plans for the Liddell Power Station after reaching agreement yesterday to part ways with Andy Veseys, whose four years as chief executive were marked by a bitter fight with Canberra over the future of the ageing coal-fired generator.

The resignation has sparked an international search for his replacement just two weeks after Mr Veseys delivered a record \$1 billion profit and said he was “not going anywhere”.

AGL chairman Graeme Hart, whose comments in the annual report two weeks ago that planning for succession was becoming more important, sparked speculation about Mr Veseys’s tenure, said the process had been in place “for some time”.

Chief financial officer Brett Rodman has been appointed acting chief executive while an international search gets under way.



AGL's outgoing chief executive, Andy Veseys and, below, Liddell Power Station in the Hunter Valley, NSW

GAS, GAS, GAS

<https://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/5592745/nsw-govt-investigates-santos-1000-days-of-royalty-free-gas/>

NSW govt investigates Santos' 1000 days of royalty free gas

Jamieson Murphy, Nth Daily Leader, 20/08/2018

The NSW government will investigate the rationale behind its recent decision to grant Santos 1000 days to extract gas from more than a dozen wells near Narrabri, without paying royalties.

The company will use the gas from its exploration wells to power its Wilga Park power station.

NSW Resource Minister Don Harwin has asked the Department of Planning and Environment to look in to the matter, following a lengthy letter from the Greens.

Greens resources and energy spokesperson Jeremy Buckingham has "serious concerns", which he outlined in the letter to Mr Harwin with more than 20 questions about the decision.

Mr Buckingham asked why the company needed to continue extracting gas from its exploration wells, given it had submitted a detailed plan for an 850-well gas field in the area, which "asserts that it was ready for commercial production".

"On the information provided by Santos in their Environmental Assessment the use of this gas cannot credibly be classed as 'beneficial use'," Mr Buckingham wrote.

"It is clearly coal seam gas production by stealth and about Santos generating income from gas production before they have received proper approval for their Narrabri gas field and avoiding millions in royalty payments." ...

<https://thewest.com.au/business/energy/west-east-gas-line-remains-an-unviable-pipedream-ng-b88932751z>

West-East gas line remains an unviable pipedream

Nick Evans, West Australian, 20/08/2018

The "nation-building" dream of running a gas pipeline from the Pilbara to the east coast is unviable, according to a feasibility study commissioned by Federal Energy Minister Josh Frydenberg, and has been quietly buried by the Federal Government.

The \$5 million study was handed to Mr Frydenberg by consultants ACIL Allen and GHD in March, but has since sat gathering dust. ...

The study – to investigate the "nation-

al interest and cost-benefit analysis" of the decades-old proposal to pipe gas from WA's North to the east coast – found the only scenario in which the pipeline was even close to being viable would be if gas reserved for WA domestic use was sent east.

State Mines and Petroleum Minister Bill Johnston said major industrial gas users based on the east coast should move their plants to WA if they wanted cheap gas. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/the-economy/norway-to-supply-australia-s-first-floating-lng-import-ship-20180820-p4zyl1.html>

Norway to supply Australia's first floating LNG import ship

Cole Latimer, SMH, 20/08/2018

Australian Industrial Energy has secured the country's first floating LNG import ship which could help lift pressure on the forecast gas shortage in 2020.

Norwegian firm Hoegh LNG – one of the largest global suppliers of floating regasification units – has signed an agreement with AIE to bring a floating import terminal to Port Kembla in NSW. This new agreement puts AIE on the path to have new gas pumping into NSW and Victoria in 2020. ...

"This [ship] is the heart and soul of the import terminal project," AIE chief executive James Baulderstone told Fairfax Media.

Under the agreement, AIE will lease one of the 300-metre long vessels, which will be permanently moored in Port Kembla's inner harbour. ...

"We have an option on two existing vessels [from Hoegh LNG]," Mr Baulderstone said.

"One is being built and will be ready for 2019, the other is already being used as an import terminal." ...

<https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/another-company-enters-the-race-for-australia-s-first-fsru#gs.nymor1k>

Another company enters the race for Australia's first FSRU

Marex, 23/08/2018

Australian Industrial Energy (AIE) has secured a FSRU for its Port Kembla Gas Terminal, but another Australian company may yet jump in ahead of it to secure what would be Australia's first FSRU. ...

However, another Australian company, AGL Energy, expects to make a final investment decision on an LNG import terminal and FSRU in the financial year of 2019. ...

Australia is set to become the world's top exporter of LNG, but this is raising prices locally and creating a shortage as the commodity is exported. According to Reuters, wholesale gas prices have nearly tripled over the past two years following the opening of three LNG export plants on Australia's east coast.

[Click the story link to see a 1 min 30 sec video of ship-to-ship transfer operation on an Höegh FSRU. Chilling viewing despite the up-beat music]

<http://mpnews.com.au/2018/08/21/govt-support-for-gas-plan/>

Govt support for gas plan

Keith Platt, Mornington Peninsula News, 21/08/2018

Ports Minister Luke Donnellan has given the strongest indication yet that the state government is likely to approve



Australian Industrial Energy's vision of an LNG tanker and floating storage regasification unit (FSRU) proposed for Port Kembla. Pic: AIE

AGL's plan for a floating gas terminal at Crib Point.

"I support the proposal to bring gas in through the port of Hastings," Mr Donnellan told state parliament on Wednesday 8 August. ...

Mr Donnellan also gave assurances that the plan would "go through a full environment effects statement process".

His support for AGL's proposal to turn liquefied natural gas back into gas before being piped to Pakenham came nine days before a protest against the plan outside the Fitzroy office of Planning Minister Richard Wynne.

Although AGL has said customers along the route of the pipeline will receive "discounts", it is running an advertising campaign with the message "No discounts. No tricks. Just low rates."

It has given no explanation why those living near the pipeline will receive cut rates.

Candy Spender van Rood, a spokesperson for the Save Westernport group, said the protest at Mr Wynne's office had been held to "to bring to [Mr Wynne's] attention the growing opposition in Western Port to AGL's gas import jetty proposal in Crib Point". ...

"When I asked him if he knew that nowhere else in the world was there a floating storage regasification (FSRU) unit within 1.2 kilometres of residences as well as so close to a bush-fire-prone area, he seemed to not be aware of that fact. ...

Mr Donnellan's comments in parliament followed questions by Ellen Sandell, Greens MP for Melbourne, about "why public money is being used by the Port of Hastings Development Authority to prepare land and infrastructure to support the AGL monster gas ship at Crib Point before it has even been granted planning approval".

"This project, frankly, is a disaster. AGL are trying to rush through an enormous, permanent floating gas ship at Crib Point in Western Port bay," Ms Sandell said.

"The bay would see a constant stream of heavy ships coming in to feed this new monster ship with imported gas.

"AGL want to pump huge quantities of heated and chlorinated water into Western Port bay, threatening internationally significant Ramsar wetlands and threatened species, and they want to trash valuable farming land by

building a new and totally unnecessary pipeline.

"AGL are simply looking to make a quick buck with no regard for the community, no regard for the environment and certainly no regard for our climate." ...

Liberal MP for Mornington Neale Burgess and his federal colleague, MP for Flinders Greg Hunt, have both said they are opposed to the FSRU at Crib Point.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/oil-search-boss-botten-four-gas-terminals-will-lead-to-glut/news-story/29baf2857a0ee6a0280e58b452d14210>

Oil Search boss Botten: Four gas terminals 'will lead to glut'

Andrew White, *The Australian*, 22/08/2018

Four gas import terminals may be too much for the east coast of Australia and not all of the plans are likely to be completed, Oil Search chief executive Peter Botten has warned.

Mr Botten said the volume of gas needed to make the terminals economic was likely to be more than the market needed, resulting in oversupply that would push gas prices down and make the terminals uneconomic. ...

Groups including AGL and another led by Fortescue Metals billionaire Andrew "Twiggy" Forrest have proposed gas terminals for NSW, Victoria and South Australia to ease tight supply by bringing international gas shipments to Australia. ...

<https://www.gladstoneobserver.com.au/news/bechtel-squashes-curtis-island-lng-construction-rumours/3498403/>

Bechtel squashes Curtis Island LNG construction rumours

Tegan Annett, *Gladstone Observer*, 21/08/2018

The company that once hired 14,500 people in Gladstone has squashed rumours it is preparing for a second wave of construction at Curtis Island.

Speculation has been rife throughout the region that Bechtel was preparing to construct a third train at one of the three Curtis Island liquefied natural gas plants. Some rumours were that the company had begun to rent out homes for construction workers to live in.

The US company spent from 2010-16 in Gladstone to construct APLNG, GLNG and QLNG.

Responding to speculation about looming construction work, a Bechtel mining and gas sector spokesman said,

"This is actually not the case."

"Bechtel does not have any imminent projects in the region," he said.

EnergyQuest chief executive Graeme Bethune said there was not enough gas for any of the Curtis Island plants to expand and construct a third train.

Currently all three plants have two trains, which are the facilities for liquefaction and purification processes. ...

NUKE MADNESS

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-08-23/sa-nuclear-waste-dump-vote-in-discrimination-claim/10157678>

Aboriginal group 'just want to be included' in vote on proposed nuclear waste dump in SA

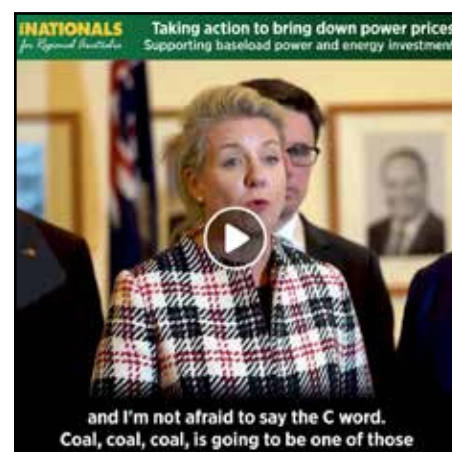
Rebecca Opie, *ABC*, 23/08/2018

The Human Rights Commission has been asked to decide whether an Aboriginal group should have a say on the location of a proposed nuclear waste dump in regional South Australia.

A community vote on the proposed dump on the Eyre Peninsula was referred to the commission following accusations it discriminated against Aboriginal native title holders.

The Barnjarla Determination Aboriginal Corporation last week won a Supreme Court injunction against the District Council of Kimba, postponing the postal vote which was scheduled to be sent out last Monday. ...

FOSSIL POLITICS



<https://reneweconomy.com.au/i-am-not-afraid-to-say-the-c-word-coal-coal-coal-nationals-deputy-44223/>

"I am not afraid to say the c-word, coal, coal, coal"- Nationals deputy

Giles Parkinson, *Renew Economy*, 20/08/2018

"I am not afraid to say the c-word, coal, coal, coal," so says National deputy leader Bridget McKenzie.

Really, that's what she said – appearing with other National Party leaders at a media conference that combined their professed concerns about the drought afflicting Australian farmers, and their embrace of the prime minister's decision to ditch emissions targets from the National Energy Guarantee.

At a conference that also featured Nationals leader Michael McCormack, Resources minister Matt Canavan and agriculture leader David Littleproud, McKenzie said she was proud of a government that champions coal. ...

And to top this off, the Coalition is also speaking of financing the refurbishment of existing coal-fired generators, to ensure they stay on line, and to force the sale of those assets companies like AGL are threatening to close.

"We back him 100 per cent," said McCormack said in relation to coal entrepreneur Trevor St Baker's interest in building a new coal-fired generator. ...

Dawson MP George Christensen wrote:

"NEW energy policy which will explicitly underwrite clean coal-fired power stations is a victory for common sense and lower power prices."

Actually, it's not, it's insanity. Even the proposed "price caps" on utility bills are likely to rebound in the face of the politicians supporting it, because analysts say it will mean reduced discounts for most consumers – and so higher, not lower, prices – and less competition. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/aug/20/politicians-must-set-aside-blinkered-ideologies-in-the-climate-end-game>

Politicians must set aside blinkered ideologies in the climate endgame

David Spratt & Ian Dunlop, *The Guardian*, 20/08/2018

Humanity has a big decision to make very soon about its future on a warming planet, but the federal Coalition is still in denial that human-induced climate change even exists, let alone that the climate endgame is upon us.

The national energy guarantee (Neg) is the latest manifestation of that denial. A third-rate complex, over-engineered policy that will most likely fail to contribute to meeting all three of its main objectives, namely increased reliability of electricity supply, lower energy prices and a long way third, reducing carbon emissions. A compromise upon compromise designed to placate the scientifically and economically illiterate Coalition right wing, which ignores

the first priority of any government, to ensure the security of the people. For climate change is now the greatest threat to that security. ...

The federal government's denial of climate risk is evident in its failure to even talk about that risk. As a result, climate and energy policy is a shambles, endlessly trying to reconcile the irreconcilable: expanding our fossil fuel-based economy ... while pretending to address climate issues. ...

Excruciating contortions by conservatives to rationalise this nonsense have only highlighted the danger to Australia's security and people of allowing scientific illiteracy to dominate decisionmaking on critical issues, particularly when the risks are the destruction of human society as we know it. ...

Our latest report, *What Lies Beneath*, ... demonstrates that special precautions going well beyond conventional risk management practice are required if the increased likelihood of very large climate impacts ... are to be adequately dealt with. ...

Either we act with unprecedented speed or we face a bleak future. Australian politicians need to accept climate reality, set aside blinkered ideologies and start working for the people, not destroying their future.

• *David Spratt is the Research Director for Breakthrough National Centre for Climate Restoration*

• *Ian Dunlop is a senior member of the Breakthrough Advisory Board*



<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/aug/20/trump-coal-emissions-power-plants-rules-obama>

Trump administration scraps Obama-era regulation on coal emissions

Oliver Milman, *The Guardian*, 22/08/2018

The Trump administration has put forward a greenhouse gas emissions plan that could boost output from coal-fired power plants rather than push them towards closure and result in as many as 1,400 premature deaths each year.

Amid outcry from activists and a

promise to sue from the attorney general of New York, one prominent environmentalist called the plan "a disaster for public health and the climate". ...

It will also result in the release of more soot and smog-forming chemicals that will kill up to 1,400 Americans a year by 2030, EPA documents show. It will also cause an extra 40,000 cases of worsening asthma and 60,000 lost school days by 2030.

An analysis by the EPA last year showed the clean power plan would prevent about 4,500 premature deaths a year by 2030. ...

The coal industry welcomed the move, which follows attempts by the Trump administration to pare back emissions standards for vehicles and throw open more of America's lands and waters to mining and drilling.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/21/world/australia/australia-climate-change-malcolm-turnbull.html?sm-typ=cur&smid=tw-nytimesworld>

Australia wilts from climate change. Why can't its politicians act?

Damien Cave, *NY Times*, 21/08/2018

Mile after mile of the Great Barrier Reef is dying amid rising ocean temperatures. Hundreds of bush fires are blazing across Australia's center, in winter, partly because of a record-breaking drought.

The global scientific consensus is clear: Australia is especially vulnerable to climate change. ...

Despite the country's reputation for progressiveness on gun control, health care and wages, its energy politics seem forever doomed to devolve into a circus...

Large mining companies like Rio Tinto and BHP have long wielded enormous power in Australia. Separately and through industry associations like the Minerals Council, they frequently host luxury events with senior politicians. Their businesses bring in more money than just about any others in Australia, and they tend to wildly outspend any group that challenges them politically. ...

The trend of hyper-partisanship has not helped. Just as climate and energy issues in the United States create a toxic divide, with many on the right opposing anything the left supports – including well-established science – any mention of emissions control tends to create an anaphylactic reaction among Australian conservatives. ...

"The scientific community in Australia

lia is unified in knowing that climate change is a problem and will become a bigger problem,” said James W. Porter, a professor of ecology at the University of Georgia, specializing in the biology and ecology of coral reefs. “The government of Australia, on the other hand, has the same problems as the government in the United States and other developed countries, in that some conservative politicians don’t want to believe in facts.” ...

Joëlle Gergis, a climate scientist and writer at the University of Melbourne, said in an email that the public and the politicians in Canberra, the nation’s capital, ought to consider what they are failing to address.

Australia’s climate has now warmed by 1 degree Celsius since 1910, she said. “This makes our climate even more extreme than it otherwise would be,” she said. “Our droughts are getting hotter, our heat waves have become more intense and our bush fire season is now extending into winter.”

The bleaching and damage to roughly half the Great Barrier Reef “is not a natural disaster,” she added. “It is one of the clearest signals that our planet is warming.”

Farmers see their own problems looming, and even those undecided about the cause of the drought are fed up with the political bickering. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/climate-doubters-keep-their-coal/news-story/363b3ee4be649d3363142497e393e23d>

Climate doubters keep their coal

David Uren, *The Australian*, 23/08/2018

The world of climate science is so messianic that it is hard to have a straight discussion about alternative views. The expression “climate-change denier” has been cast from “Holocaust denier” to incite moral condemnation while Wikipedia coolly talks about the “unwarranted doubt of the scientific consensus”.

Yet doubt about the theory that burning fossil fuel has a material impact on the climate runs deep on the conservative side of Australian politics. It has twice led to a rebellion to stop Malcolm Turnbull doing a deal with Labor that would put a price on carbon.

It is not a majority view within the Coalition – the “Monash Forum” ginger group formed among Coalition federal parliamentarians this year to make the case for coal-fired power mustered two dozen members at most.

But in Tony Abbott the questioning of climate science has an effective spokesman. Non-government lobby groups the Institute of Public Affairs and the Australian Environment Foundation provide intellectual backing. And the doubters have been able to rally support beyond their numbers among those who see the radicalism of climate-change advocates as having reduced energy reliability and raised prices. ...

Abbott argues that the rise in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere in the past century has not had dramatic consequences. “Storms are not more severe; droughts are not more prolonged; floods are not greater; and fires are not more intense than a century ago – despite hyperventilating reportage and over-the-top claims from Green politicians,” he says. Noting that carbon dioxide is food to plants, he suggests increased emissions are “greening” the planet, lifting crop yields.

Abbott has been influenced by academic geologists and geophysicists such as Ian Plimer, Peter Ridd and Bob Carter. Plimer sits on boards of Gina Rinehart companies, Ridd is scientific adviser to the Australian Environment Foundation, while Carter – Ridd’s former colleague at James Cook University who died in 2016 – was scientific adviser to the IPA. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/absolutely-daft-how-did-we-end-getting-climate-policy-so-wrong-20180823-p4zz83.html>

‘Absolutely daft’: How did we end up getting climate policy so wrong?

Peter Hannam, *SMH*, 23/08/2018

With the apparent combustion of the Turnbull government expected on Friday, the parallels with Emperor Nero supposedly playing his lyre as Rome blazed around him are unmistakable.

Having our federal political leaders consumed with the Liberal Party’s infighting is precisely not what’s needed for our country. Just ask agencies battling to prepare for real-life conflagrations that threaten the eastern seaboard in coming months.

It’s certainly ironic Malcolm Turnbull’s ditching of carbon emissions as a goal of the National Energy Guarantee last week precipitated the crisis that has almost certainly ended his time as Prime Minister.

What is especially disturbing is the risk his successor – whether it is Peter Dutton or Scott Morrison or Julie Bish-

op or whoever else – will downgrade climate action as a priority in order to secure right-wing MP support.

Rather than taking up the national interest and cutting carbon emissions – the Turnbull government effectively has no climate policy – the next PM will likely be under pressure to back new coal-fired power stations. ...



<https://thenewdaily.com.au/money/finance-news/2018/08/24/dutton-claim-coal-cheaper-not-true/>

Dutton camp’s claim that coal is cheaper is just not true, energy experts agree

James Fernyhough, *New Daily*, 24/08/2018

Building more coal-fired power stations will do nothing to lower energy prices, and the pro-coal conservatives of the Liberal Party behind Friday’s leadership spill are basing their support for the fossil fuel on “bizarre” ideology, experts have told *The New Daily*. ...

The New Daily spoke to a number of experts in the academic and investment fields, and all were clear that building more coal-fired power stations was neither a solution nor an option, for all sorts of reasons.

They agreed that the Liberal Party’s [appetite for] coal was based on ideology, not reality, with one describing the “infatuation” with coal as “bizarre”.

Business groups were also found to be wholly in favour of legislating a commitment to a 26 per cent emissions reduction target by 2030.

The only prominent advocates for scrapping emissions targets and prioritising coal were the Coalition politicians themselves, certain media outlets, and the Institute of Public Affairs, a right-wing, fossil-fuel funded think tank.

Most tellingly, earlier this month even the Minerals Council – a lobby group that represents coal miners – threw its unequivocal support behind the emissions reduction targets in the NEG.

In other words, the pro-coal gang is a niche group that happens to have wrestled control of Australia’s federal government.

News this week ... from previous page

Jason Aravanis, senior industry analyst at financial research house IBISWorld, said the conservative faction's support for continuing to prioritise coal was based on a misguided faith in new "clean coal" power plants. ...

Tony Wood, energy program director at think tank the Grattan Institute and former employee of energy giant Origin, told *The New Daily* favouring coal would not push electricity prices down.

He said Australia's once-numerous coal plants did once produce low-cost energy. But he said they were gradually closing down as they reached the end of their lifespans, and would have to be replaced.

"Anything we replace these ageing power stations with is going to be more expensive, whether more coal, gas or renewables." All, he said, would be producing electricity at around \$80 per megawatt hour. ...

Professor Anthony Vassalo, a sustainable energy expert at Sydney University, agreed there was no way new coal-fired power stations would be built.

"The cost of these long-term investments is above what you can buy wind and solar power stations for now. No sane investor is going to be part of that," he said.

"I can't see where the argument [for more coal plants] is. It's just a belief that climate change is not happening, and we're not going to mitigate it because anything we do is going to cost money and affect the economy," he said.

Mr Aravanis agreed, saying the pro-coal position was purely ideological, and would not deal with price or stability of supply.

"It's bizarre. Why are they so beholden to coal-based power? What is it about coal that is so infatuating?"

<https://www.thesaturdaypaper.com.au/news/politics/2018/08/25/cutthroat-politics-veil-climate-change-inaction/15351192006760>

Cutthroat politics veil climate change inaction

Mike Seccombe, *Saturday Paper*, 25/08/2018

... In the rarified confines of Parliament House they all smelled only Turnbull's blood, but elsewhere in the country, people smelled other things: dust and death and smoke. That day, some 70 fires were burning in New South

NEWS

Cutthroat politics veil climate change inaction

"No one even said the words 'climate change'. No one spoke to the greater tragedy – that the zealots of the Liberal Party right wing were intent on killing not just Turnbull, but any meaningful action on the most pressing issue of our time."

Wales, 30 of them uncontained – in the middle of winter. The entire state was officially in drought. A total fire ban had been imposed, the earliest such declaration, ever.

Queensland authorities counted 500 fires over the previous weekend and almost 60 per cent of that state was officially in drought. ...

And the outlook is grim.

The bureau forecasts a hot, dry summer. Possibly devastatingly so.

The chances of El Niño, the climate

variation that drastically reduces rain across eastern Australia, have doubled.

This is not natural variability. Since the mid 1990s, rainfall for the April to October growing season right across the south-east of the continent has declined an average of 11 per cent. In the south-west of Australia, May–July rainfall is down about 19 per cent. ...

The prospect of [policy] changing, though, appears as remote as ever. Indeed, the signs are that things will get worse. Tony Abbott, who did so much to prepare the ground for Peter Dutton's ill-fated challenge, would have Australia abandon its commitment to the Paris greenhouse reduction targets. We shall see whether Scott Morrison's ascendancy, with then energy and environment minister Josh Frydenberg as his deputy, makes any difference.

At stake in the battle for the Liberal Party leadership was so much more than the jobs and egos of a few rich and ruthless politicians. It was the future of Australia's farmers, their children, all our children in an overheating world.

Think about that as you smell the smoke this summer.



Fracking pamphlets available for WA

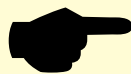
Frack Free WA, a Lock the Gate organisation, now has pamphlets which can be downloaded and printed.

Factsheets and news are also available from the site, debunking myths about fracking safety pedalled by the industry and the WA government.

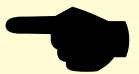
Go to the link below for your copy of the pamphlet:

<http://www.frackfreewa.org.au/frackfacts>

Fossil Fool Bulletin is emailed to subscribers every Tuesday.



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



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