

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 2:6 • 11 JANUARY 2019

Blue Energy loses Wide Bay Burnett frack gas permits

Community groups are celebrating the news this week that Blue Energy gas permits in the Wide Bay Burnett region have expired and will not be renewed.

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines has informed Lock the Gate Alliance this week that the two Blue Energy gas permits that were due for renewal on the December 31 have expired, and will not be renewed.

A third permit will expire on March 31 and cannot be renewed.

Five years of community opposition

It comes after more than five years of unwavering community opposition to Blue Energy fracking plans for the region.

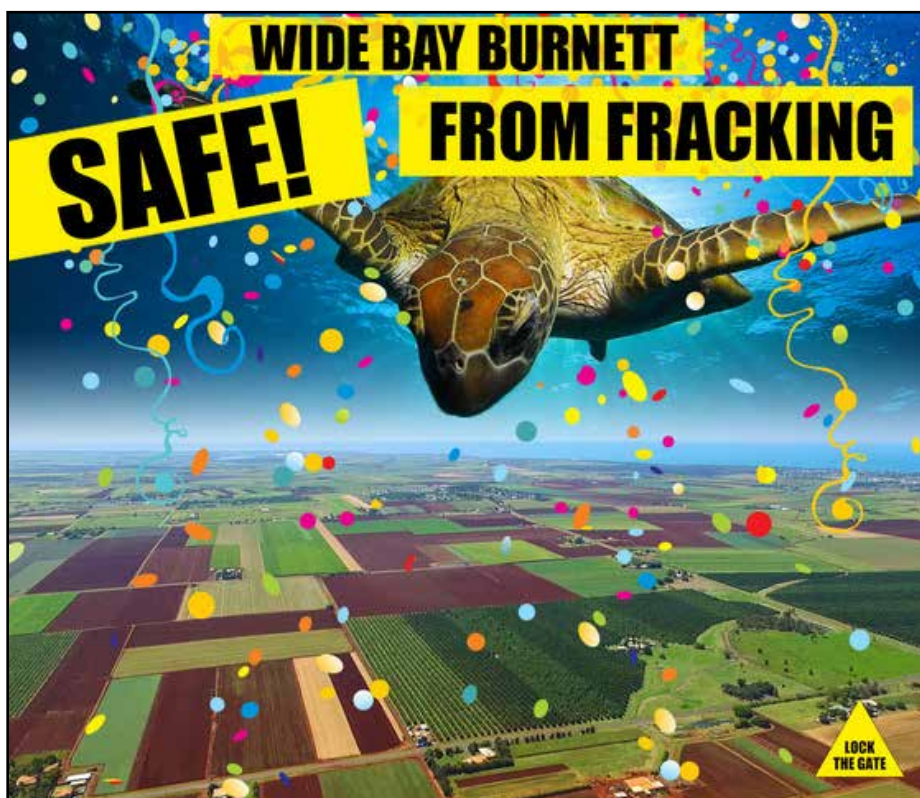
Local canegrower Judy Plath said "This is a wonderful day for farmers in the region, who have worked very hard to highlight the severe risks that fracking would pose to our industry.

"Our community has shown incredible courage and determination to succeed against a shale gas industry that was hungry for our land and water

"We're ecstatic that the region is soon to be free from all fracking permits, and we will be keeping up the pressure to make sure it stays that way" she said.

United communities have power

Vicki Perrin from Lock the Gate Alliance said "This outcome shows that



unified communities have the power to defend themselves from gas fracking.

"Farmers, industry groups, Traditional Owners, tourism operators and town residents have all stood as one and put our sustainable industries and our environment above gas industry profits.

"We're now calling on the Queensland Government to provide permanent protection for the region, to ensure there will no new proposals for gas fracking in the future in this region."

The decision comes after the Butchulla Traditional Owners announced their unanimous opposition to fracking on country in the region late last year.

"This outcome is a testament to the strength and dedication of the Butchulla elders, who have led the way protecting country and putting land and water first" Ms Perrin said.

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• P3: Adani's hoax plan dooms birds

• P4: CSG salt dump stalled on truck issue

• P5: Adani bullies traditional owner

Billions of litres of Sydney's drinking water diverted into coal mines



Dendrobium Mine has drained six billion litres of water from the Sydney catchment.

A new report reveals that six billion litres of water has been diverted from creeks feeding Sydney water catchments into underground coal mines in the Greater Sydney Water Catchment Special Areas.

It demonstrates a moratorium on any new mines in the region must be implemented immediately, according to Lock the Gate Alliance.

The amount of lost water was revealed last month, in an interim report by the from the Independent Expert Panel for Mining in the Catchment, examining damage to Sydney's drinking water catchment by the Dendrobium and Metropolitan coal mines.

Call for moratorium

Lock the Gate Alliance spokesperson Georgina Woods said the NSW Government must now place a moratorium on any further approval of coal mines in the Special Areas of the catchment until the panel's final report is delivered in August.

The report showed six billion litres of water over the last eight years has been diverted from creeks feeding Avon and Cordeaux catchments and has instead leaked into the Dendrobium coal mine. In addition, the Avon reservoir appears to be directly leaking into the mine.

Ms Woods said the need for a moratorium was particularly urgent, given the ongoing drought.

"The Upper Nepean and Woronora catchments, where Metropolitan

and Dendrobium mines are located, provide about 24% of the water supply for Sydney Water. These catchments have been assessed to be in 'intense drought' and it is unacceptable for any more coal mining to be allowed in these areas to potentially worsen this water loss," Ms Woods said.

3m litres a day wasted

"The water pouring in to the Dendrobium mine at a rate of three million litres each day is equivalent to 1.2% of the capacity of the desalination plant that may soon be switched on.

"The Expert Panel clearly finds that we have too little knowledge of the catchment to be confident in the scale of long-term damage mining has done and will do in the Special Areas.

"And yet, there are new and expanded mining proposals in these areas being considered by the Department of Planning.

"Any waste of water in the catchment of a growing city is reckless and unacceptable."

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Recommended reading: Is coal seam gas contaminating the meat you eat?

The effects of coal seam gas mining on land and water are already well known. But what is it doing to our meat?

Gemma Clarke's report published in *New Matilda* last month is essential reading.

She speaks to Chinchilla beef producers and discovers gob-smacking issues, from lack of environmental baseline testing to lack of any meat testing for toxic residues from the CSG industry.

She quotes Dr Mariann Lloyd-Smith, from the National Toxics Network, saying the fact we have so little monitoring data about the impact on farm animals and crops in Australia "an appalling state of affairs".

Clarke says, "In response to growing concerns held by farmers regarding liability, just over five years ago Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) hired a legal firm to provide advice as part of a project initiated by the Cattle Council of Australia (CCA) and the Australian Feed Lot Association (AFLA).

"This was to determine where producers and feedlot operators would sit if there was a CSG-related contamination. But when the firm completed its report, it announced it 'should not be released', claiming professional legal privilege."

Contamination issues would be disastrous for the beef industry which employs 438,100 Australians, while 2015 figures show 27,500 people are employed in oil and gas extraction.

Read the whole story here:

<https://newmatilda.com/2018/12/24/coal-seam-gas-contaminating-meat-eat/>

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GOT SOMETHING TO PROMOTE?

FFB often has little spaces like this available and is happy to promote events, publications, groups etc that harmonise with the goal of ending the fossil fuel era in Australia.

Send an email to evesinton@gmail.com or fossil.fool.bulletin@gmail.com

Adani's hoax finch conservation plan dooms birds

New mapping has revealed Adani's planned Black Throated Finch conservation areas will be utterly ineffective because they sit atop a second proposed coal mine – Clive Palmer's Alpha North project.

As a requirement for their Black Throated Finch Management Plan, Adani has proposed creating a 'conservation area' more than 33,000 hectares in size for the finch and other wildlife.

The company recently produced a map of the area in a fact sheet released in November 2018.

Palmer's coal will undermine finch

Lock the Gate Alliance spokesperson Carmel Flint said 20,000 hectares of the conservation area, or 60% of it, was located in an area that is being targeted for coal mining by Clive Palmer's Waratah Coal company.

"In fact, the bulk of Adani's 'conservation area' is located on a future mine site," she said.

"Earlier this year Palmer's company submitted an application to the Federal Government under the EPBC Act that includes proposals for four underground longwall mining operations in



exactly the same area where Adani's 'conservation area' is proposed.

"In their application, Waratah Coal recognises the potential for the mine to cause subsidence impacts and is required to conduct an environmental impact assessment to assess the impacts of that on wildlife habitat and watercourses."

According to *The Guardian*, Adani's response suggested the Indian company could seek to block elements of the neighbouring Alpha North coalmine, or prompt a court battle, to safeguard its own project.

"We will not allow the conservation area for the black-throated finch to be compromised," Adani said in a statement to *Guardian Australia*.

Adani owns the relevant pastoral land – effectively the property at surface level. Palmer's Waratah Coal has several exploration permits for the coal resource underneath, and has applied for a mining lease.

Ms Flint said because Clive Palmer's mining leases would trump Adani's pastoral leases, and therefore the proposed conservation zones, the Black Throated Finch would be doomed should the Adani mine go ahead as planned.

An elaborate hoax

"This is an arrogant, destructive proposal from Adani, and it shows how little the company cares about this endangered species," she said.

"This so-called 'conservation area' is utterly meaningless – it's an elaborate hoax Adani has devised to enable it to start the Carmichael project, knowing full well that the area is likely to be mined in the future."

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Westernport's biggest paddle-out calls to stop AGL gas terminal

LEFT: Hundreds of people turned out for Westernport's biggest paddle-out at Pines Beach, Shoreham, on January 6. They want AGL to drop its plans to put a floating gas import terminal at nearby Crib Point. (See also, p16.)

Photos: Jai Seales, Facebook

BELOW: The protest came as Hoegh LNG announced it would supply a floating storage regasification unit (FRSU), pictured, for the project, subject to AGL getting the go-ahead from government.

Photo: Hoegh

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Truck issue stalls CSG salt dump



We Kando's salt dump needs parking space for its trucks, but their plan has been knocked back by the Qld Planning and Environment Court. Photo: We Kando

Lock the Gate Alliance has welcomed a December ruling in the Queensland Planning and Environment Court which limits truck parking at the proposed We Kando CSG salt waste dump, pending further legal appeals.

The company plans to use the site, near Chinchilla, to store up to 15 million tonnes of salt from CSG extraction fewer than 100 metres from Stockyard Creek in the headwaters of the Murray-Darling system.

The court action to allow truck parking was brought by the company against the Western Downs Regional Council.

Lock the Gate Alliance spokesperson Carmel Flint said there were grave concerns the dump would contaminate the nearby creek system and/or local groundwater over time.

"This decision from the Planning and Environment Court is a significant setback for We Kando," she said.

"While there is a larger appeal still pending in relation to truck parking on site, this underscores again the piecemeal and unsatisfactory nature of the project.

"In addition to this dispute with the local council, there is a broader question as to the legality of We Kando operations under Federal Environment laws.

"We Kando has not applied the Federal water trigger to assess the risk of up to 15 million tonnes of CSG salt waste being stored less than 100 metres from Stockyard creek.

CSG approved without waste plan

"The severe environmental issues surrounding this project highlight the enormous risks with CSG waste in Queensland and the weakness of regulations surrounding it.

"CSG projects are approved without a plan for dealing with their waste, and it is local farmers and communities who are now having to deal with projects like this, with companies seeking to dump waste in unsuitable locations that pose a major risk to their local environments and livelihoods.

"What's needed now is an urgent review and far-reaching audit of waste management by the coal seam gas industry in Queensland" she said.

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Shenhua mine dodges management plan, govt hides documents

The NSW Government has allowed mining company Shenhua to alter its development approval for the controversial Watermark open cut coal mine on the Liverpool Plains, near Gunnedah, which will enable work on site to begin without key management plans being approved.

Despite the NSW deal, Shenhua is still not able to commence work under the Federal environmental approval until two important management plans, including the crucial Water Management Plan, have been approved by the Federal Government.

Now local farmers are afraid that the Federal Environment Minister, Melissa Price, may be about to follow the NSW Government lead and vary the approval to allow Shenhua to start pre-construction for their mine without the management plans.

Lock the Gate Alliance spokesperson Georgina Woods said, "The community has a long memory and will not accept Governments changing the rules to the benefit of foreign-owned mining giants over local farmers."

Call for commission of inquiry

Meanwhile, Lock the Gate has redoubled its calls for a Special Commission of Inquiry into mining in NSW after the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal this week found in favour of the NSW Government withholding key documents on the Shenhua coal mine.

The documents relate to secret negotiations between the NSW Government and Shenhua which resulted in the government granting Shenhua \$262M in July 2017 and subsequently renewing 50% of Shenhua's exploration licence in July 2017.

Lock the Gate spokesperson, Georgina Woods said, "The public needs to know why this government gave \$262M in public funds to a foreign-owned mining company for no apparent public benefit.

"We're calling for a Special Commission of Inquiry into this and other recent controversies surrounding the administration of mining in NSW, including issues raised by numerous whistleblowers over the last two months.

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Adani ramps up the rhetoric on mine start

Adani's decision to move some machinery to its Carmichael Mine site in Central Queensland appears to be a PR stunt, with several significant environmental approvals and court challenges outstanding.

The company issued photos of the operation just before Christmas.

Lock the Gate spokesperson Carmel Flint said the mining giant still did not have approval for its Black Throated Finch and Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems management plans.

"This is an arrogant attempt by Adani to bully the Queensland Government and ram through these management plans," she said.

"Adani is trying to put the pressure on the Queensland Government and crash its approvals through, without doing the proper work required," she said.

"The Carmichael Mine is increasingly looking like a white elephant for Adani."

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Adani made a great show of putting earthmoving equipment at the Carmichael Mine site in time for Christmas. Economist John Quigging commented in his blog, "I'm not an expert, but it seems to me that these pictures show only one, or maybe two, vehicles that could be described as 'heavy earthmoving equipment'. And while the camp (which was apparently constructed in 2016) has accommodation for 300 workers (rather less than the 10,000 we were promised), the collection of vehicles parked out the front suggests that actual occupancy is more like 20." (See p9 & 11).

Photo:Adani

Adani threatens traditional owner with bankruptcy

Adani has filed a petition to bankrupt indigenous traditional owner, Adrian Burragubba, for his opposition to their controversial Carmichael coal mine.

Adani filed the petition in the Federal Court against the Wangan and Jagalingou [W&J] man after his numerous failed court actions to stop their \$16.5 billion Carmichael mine in the Galilee Basin.

"Activists should be held to account. They are not above the law," the company said in a statement.

Adani has vowed to donate to charity any funds, totalling \$600,000 in court costs, from Mr Burragubba.

Even the business-focused *Australian Financial Review* found that a bit much to swallow.

Optics of the move could hardly be worse

"Adani has said that any funds that are recovered will be passed to charity. I am not sure that is going to help much", said reporter Matthew Stevens.

"The decision to pursue Burragubba announces that Adani has had enough

by reinforcing the potential that there can be cost to losing at lawfare and that the financial burden of defeat can become fearsomely personal. ... The timing and the optics of the move to bankrupt Burragubba could hardly be worse."

W&J Traditional Owners Family Council chairperson Linda Bobongie said, "In a show of abject moral failure and corporate bullying, Adani has instituted bankruptcy proceedings against W&J leader and spokesperson Adrian Burragubba, simply for retribution.

Millions of Aussies back W&J campaign

"We have enormous support for our Federal Court appeal against Adani's rent-a-crowd Indigenous Land Use Agreement. Over 128,000 people have signed our petition, and millions of Australians who oppose the Carmichael Mine continue to back our campaign because they also care about Aboriginal rights in this country.

"Adani are trying to prevent justice and hide behind a veil of supposed charity. Nothing could be more sickening than to have this corporate bully lecture us about our own people. They never

have the courage to front up. It's always done through anonymous media spokespeople or high-priced lawyers.

"We demand to know the Adani bosses who initiated this action. Was it Lucas Dow, the new CEO of Adani Mining, or was it Jeyakumar Janakaraj, CEO & Country Head Australia, or was it Gautam Adani himself who authorised this shameless attack on our people?

"We are seeking the assistance of the UN Special Rapporteurs for Indigenous Peoples Rights and for Human Rights Defenders.

"Adani has no moral claim over us, and no legitimate claim for money. Their deceit is practiced. From the hollow protest about a vote of 294 – 1, as though this is believable ... human rights can be wiped out forever by a one-off stacked meeting; to employing or contracting with people who oversaw the collapse of our \$1m trust fund, such as Ms Irene Simpson and Mr Patrick Malone, directors of Cato Galilee, which entered into an unauthorised Memorandum of Understanding with Adani; to the PR exercises on jobs and partnership with 'fake W&J people'."

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Knitting Nannas stage three knit-ins on one day in Northern Rivers

Knitting Nannas from Lismore, Kyogle and Byron Bay staged three Northern Rivers knit-ins on January 10.

They descended upon federal National MP Kevin Hogan's Lismore office.

In nearby Ballina, they waved their knitting needles outside state MP Tamara Smith (Greens) office. Then they rounded the corner to the office of Nationals candidate for Ballina, Ben Franklin.

After a hot afternoon on the streets, where they were greeted with many friendly toots and conversations with passers-by, the Nannas went to the beach for fish 'n' chips and a swim.

With NSW and federal elections both due in coming months, the Knitting Nannas will be annoying all politicians equally.

They made recent visits to the offices of Labor MP for Richmond, Justine Elliott, and Nationals candidate for Lismore, Austin Curtin.

The polities never know where the Knitting Nannas will turn up next – reminding them their Nannas are always watching, and that they must keep their election promises.

Photos: Knitting Nannas, Facebook



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



Inside the news

FFB hopes readers are enjoying the summer. To keep you up with the state of fossil fuel play, a record **43,200 words** have been compressed into a few pages to keep you informed.

Adani has been busy during the traditional Aussie holiday period. Besides the major issues on p3 and 5 – a **cynical conservation hoax** and the **bullying of traditional owners** – the company has been **ordered** to pay contractor **AECOM \$12 million** for work on railway plans (p9). News of the Carmichael Mine's impact on Galilee Basin **water reserves is spreading** (p8). The company is also bullying the Queensland government (p11).

The overall picture of **Adani** is that of a **litigious thug**, refusing to pay a relatively small fine (for pollution of Abbott Point wetlands last year), and running up unpaid debts with contractors.

The Guardian has discovered **Adani** could even **sue the federal government**, under a provision in the defunct (but still applicable) **Australia-India Bilateral Investment Treaty** (p8). A lawyer-fest in the making!

Chevron, which has failed to implement **dodgy carbon capture and storage** technology for its Gorgon project, is now **flaring off the nasties** as its workers on Barrow Island fear **mercury and BTEX** poisoning (p15).

NSW's Liberal energy minister, **Don Harwin**, blasted federal energy minister, **Angus Taylor**, for blocking his attempt to debate emissions reduction at last month's COAG meeting. *The Australian* kicked back, no doubt on behalf of fossil fuel fan **Rupert's** behalf, to expose Harwin's **coal industry links** (p17).

The Guardian published an article by Liberal party member, **Oliver Yates**, who says **Peta Credlin's preselection could blow the party up** (p18). Describing Credlin as a "climate change-denying, hard-right mouthpiece of the Murdoch empire ... [advancing] her own political interests, and the interests of the coal industry," Yates says she is dangerous.

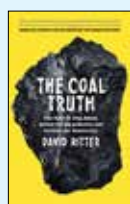
FFB agrees.

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***The Coal Truth: the fight to stop Adani, defeat the big polluters and reclaim our democracy* (\$29.99)**

A timely and colourful contribution to one of the most important struggles in our national history – over the future of the coal industry.



Fiona Wilson fundraiser

Gas industry whistleblower Fiona Wilson is still battling her incarceration and forced medication by Queensland's Fixated Persons Unit.

Fiona's story was told in FFB1.2 and FFB1.13. An update will be published soon.

She needs to fund about \$30,000 in legal fees and medical costs.

If you can help, click the link below:

<https://www.gofundme.com/barrister-needed-for-fiona-wilson>



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In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 43,200 words of news for your convenience.
Click on the [links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.echo.net.au/2018/12/adani-activists-drop-coag/>

Adani activists drop in on COAG

Echonet Daily, 19/12/2018

On the first day of the COAG Energy Council meeting in Adelaide (Tuesday December 18), two citizens [Donna Smit and Jamie Dunn] entered Senator Matt Canavan's press conference and stood either side of him bearing #StopAdani signs. Interrupting his opening statements, they asked him why he supports the Adani coal mine. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/leading-christian-dr-peter-catt-vows-to-block-adani-bulldozers/news-story/7a77ef8825e519dec97323c2b94ab97c>

Leading Christian Dr Peter Catt vows to block Adani bulldozers

Daryl Passmore, Courier-Mail, 16/12/2018

One of Queensland's leading Christian figures has vowed to block bulldozers in a bid to stop Adani's mega-mine going ahead, and called on followers of other religions to join him.

Dr Peter Catt, Dean of St John's Anglican Cathedral in Brisbane, issued the rallying call at a "carols for the earth" concert in Brisbane (15 December).

"As a Christian, caring for Creation means putting that care into practice. If necessary, I will stand in front of Adani bulldozers to make political leaders take our climate emergency seriously," he said. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-12-17/adani-water-management-plan-criticised-by-csiro/10625228>

Adani's key water management plan is flawed and used some unverified data, CSIRO says

Mark Willacy, ABC, 17/12/2018

The CSIRO has found serious flaws in Adani's key water management plan to protect an ancient springs complex near its proposed Carmichael coal mine, threatening to further delay the controversial project. ...

The ABC understands one of the CSIRO's key concerns is the level of groundwater draw-down that could be caused at the springs by the mine's operations. ...



Jamie Dunn (left) and Donna Smit (right) convey a message to mining enthusiast, Senator Matthew Canavan (centre) at the COAG meeting in Adelaide on December 18.
Photo: contributed

The source of the ancient springs remains in doubt. ...

The CSIRO also found that some of the data used by Adani in its plan was not verified.

The CSIRO has told the federal environment department that Adani needs to do more work on its GDEMP and to verify its data. ...

<https://www.queenslandcountrylife.com.au/story/5815288/impact-of-galilee-basin-coal-mines-greater-than-first-thought/>

Galilee Basin coal mines will have larger impact on water reserves

Qld Country Life, 17/12/2018

The potential impact of Galilee Basin mining on central Queensland water flows is larger than first thought, a new government report says.

Federal government scientists recently released the results of modelling looking at the combined impacts of seven coal mines in the region.

They found there was more than a 95 per cent likelihood these mines would change water flows in the Belyando river basin. ...

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/national/csiro-scrutiny-into-water-plans-welcomed-adani/news-story/8657d8eb9777c4420890f420121cd7ee?csp=60dfb-da028b178a340b2004e066da776>

CSIRO scrutiny into water plans welcomed: Adani

Julia Bradley, Townsville Bulletin, 17/12/2018

Mining giant Adani has nudged away a damning report into its key water management plan as another cog in the machine of bureaucratic oversight. ...

A spokesman for Adani Australia said the mine's main water source will be dam water.

"Groundwater will only be extracted from in and around the mine open cut pits," he said. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/dec/17/the-legal-clause-which-could-allow-adani-to-sue-australia>

The legal clause which could allow Adani to sue Australia

Patricia Randal, The Guardian, 17/12/2018

Opposition leader Bill Shorten has stated again that a future Labor government should not cancel the Adani mine licence for environmental reasons because of "sovereign risk". ...

There is a bigger risk for a future government which might choose to cancel the licence. Adani could sue the Australian government for millions of dollars through the process known as Investor-State Disputes Settlement (ISDS), using the now terminated Aus-

**HELP W&J PEOPLE GET JUSTICE:
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Wangan Jagalingou Traditional Owners
Aboriginal Corporation

**BSB: 034-003
Account number: 278038**

tralia-India Bilateral Investment Treaty. ...

• *Dr Patricia Ranald is convener of the Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network and a research fellow at the University of Sydney*

<https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/article/2018/12/18/traditional-owners-fighting-adani-coal-mine-ordered-pay>

Traditional owners fighting Adani coal mine ordered to pay up

Ella Archibald-Binge, NITV, 18/12/2018

Wangan and Jagalingou Traditional Owners fighting the Adani coal mine have been ordered to pay \$50,000 in security costs by the end of January – or face having their legal case struck out.

The sum is less than a third of what was requested by the Indian conglomerate, which sought \$160,000 as an assurance that traditional owners can cover Adani's legal costs if their legal bid is unsuccessful. ...

If the amount is not paid to the court by the end of January, Justice Robertson ordered that the appeal be dismissed. ...

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-12-20/adani-carmichael-mine-potential-insurers-under-pressure/10637528>

Adani's Carmichael mine faces another potential setback, as opponents lobby insurers not to provide cover

Angela Lavoipierre, ABC, 20/18/2018

One of the big stumbling blocks for Adani's proposed Carmichael coal mine in Queensland has been securing finance from lenders to build the project.

Now, opponents of the mine are at it again – this time pressuring insurance firms not to provide cover.

So far, 10 major insurance companies have said they do not intend to do so, with a number categorically ruling it out. ...

Energy market analyst Tim Buckley said, "It's most likely that they will find an insurer. We've seen seven of the biggest European insurers rule out thermal coal insurance work, but Americans are laggards, so they are most likely going to find an insurer in America who is still willing to do it."



Adani sends a couple of heavy earthmoving machines to the Carmichael Mine site, to convince people the project is moving ahead. Photo: Adani

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-12-21/traditional-owner-irene-simpson-trust-fund-asic-adani-gld/10640054>

Adani employee and traditional owner referred to ASIC over million-dollar trust fund collapse

Josh Robertson, ABC, 21/12/2018

A traditional owner employed by Adani has been referred to Australia's corporate watchdog for investigation over the collapse of a million-dollar trust fund set up to hold mining income for the Wangan and Jagalingou (W&J) people.

Key points:

ASIC asked to investigate whether Irene Simpson committed offences while overseeing the Wangan and Jagalingou (W&J) charitable trust

Ms Simpson took a job with Adani in October 2017 after negotiating a contentious land access deal for the W&J people

There are concerns about financial transactions without supporting evidence, including \$30,000 listed as "family and community expenses" ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/dec/20/adani-ordered-to-pay-almost-12m-for-work-on-scraped-carmichael-rail-line>

Adani ordered to pay almost \$12m for work on scrapped Carmichael rail line

Ben Smees, The Guardian, 20/12/2018

Adani has been ordered to pay almost \$12m owed to engineering firm AECOM for work on a scrapped rail line to the Carmichael coalmine.

A judgment in the Queensland Building and Construction commission details how "payment difficulties" emerged in a contract between AECOM and an Adani subsidiary company. ...

The QBCC issued a detailed mixed ruling that Adani owes AECOM about \$12m, plus interest. The ruling also reveals how the rail line, which has since been abandoned, suffered a series of setbacks.

These included Adani being unable to provide AECOM with access to properties to undertake design work, "expected government relaxations that did not materialise" and the veto of a loan from the Northern Australia infrastructure facility. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/adani-tries-to-get-things-moving-at-carmichael-coalmine/news-story/41676a3d00ff7040aad63f0602d561b>

Adani tries to get things moving at Carmichael coalmine

Jared Owens, The Australian, 21/12/2018

After eight years of politically charged protest that dominated Australia's environmental debate, heavy earth-breaking machinery has finally arrived at the site of the nation's most hotly contested open-cut coalmine.

The bulldozers, graders and service vehicles were sent December 20 to the site of Adani's Carmichael mine ...

https://www.news.com.au/finance/business/mining/will-adanis-carmichael-coal-mine-go-ahead/news-story/8891bb05b9590c5f12e0d2c226039a047fb-clid=IwARZfslRdrHs79ya2euqhlwegGlo-eLev3HHIEFIj_pEy-KyadZYeOwDMQLcQ

Will Adani's Carmichael coal mine go ahead?

Charis Chang, News.com.au, 21/12/2018

It was once touted as Australia's biggest coal mine and a mega project that would create 10,000 jobs but the oft-promised construction of Adani's Carmichael mine still seems unlikely despite recent announcements. ...

STOP WATER MINING





Pushing hard: Adani's advertisement in The Courier-Mail, December 19.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/adanis-warning-to-government-over-mine-progress/news-story/f2a42db896d-f953e2e81c14944f6f8ec>

Adani's warning to government over mine progress

Sarah Vogler & Aden Stokes, Courier-Mail, 22/12/2018

Adani could consider legal options to force the Queensland Government's hand if it does not move swiftly with final approvals for the controversial Carmichael mega coalmine.

CEO Lucas Dow told The Courier-Mail the Indian miner did have plans it could pursue if the Government was unnecessarily delaying the project. ... It came as Mr Dow launched an extraordinary attack on the Government, accusing it of stonewalling the mine at the eleventh hour. ...

<https://www.afr.com/news/politics/adani-is-carmichael-mine-approval-delayed-by-another-two-months-20181220-h19bsx2fbclid=IwAR3XhTyRi-QunRLni2jm0pBGIEqFGcsHtYnrh6jCBCYovK8z9t5WR-Fix-Rbk>

Adani's Carmichael mine approval delayed by another two months

Mark Ludlow, AFR, 21/12/2018

Indian energy giant Adani will miss its Christmas deadline to begin construction of its ... mine after the Palaszczuk

Labor government commissioned an independent review into the company's environmental management plans – a process which is expected to take at least two months. ...

The company will, however, be able to begin some preliminary clearing for its 200-kilometre rail line – which will join Aurizon's Central Queensland Coal Network – which is not conditional on federal approval of its environmental management plans.

<https://theaimn.com/a-message-to-australias-children-might-matt-canavan-be-lying/>

A message to Australia's children – might Matt Canavan be lying?

Kaye Lee, AIM Network, 28/12/2018

When thousands of school children took to the streets to protest against the Adani coal mine and the government's inaction on climate change, they were met by patronising condescension from the Prime Minister who said he does "not support our schools being turned into parliaments" and that he wants "more learning and less activism in schools."

The Minister for Resources and Northern Australia, Matt Canavan, went further tweeting:

"It is sad that all of those young people protesting today don't seem to care for the rights of indigenous Australians. The W&J peoples voted 294 to 1 in favour of Adani mine. The views of the traditional owners should prevail!"

Well kids, sit up straight and pay attention as we do some learning. ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/crime-and-justice/adani-lodges-bankruptcy-claim-against-carmichael-mine-protester/news-story/920ae414f12e1b-b0ee177c12b5407b72>

Adani lodges bankruptcy claim against Carmichael mine protester

Vanda Carson, Courier-Mail, 29/12/2018

Indian mining giant Adani is trying to bankrupt a traditional land owner who fought to stop its \$2 billion Carmichael megamine in the courts.

Adani Mining has filed a creditor's petition in the Federal Court seeking an order bankrupting Wangan and Jagalingou traditional owner and lead spokesman Adrian Burragubba, from Woolloongabba in Brisbane's inner east.

The company alleges Mr Burragubba owes it \$637,960 after the Federal Court and the Court of Appeal ordered he pay legal costs of failed fights against the miner. ...

Adani alleges in the bankruptcy case that it served him with a bankruptcy notice on November 17 but he failed to pay by December 8.

The case ... is due in court for hearing by a registrar on February 6. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/adani-files-petition-to-bankrupt-native-title-opponent/news-story/231c837689231e3b37020aab1efea935>

Adani files petition to bankrupt native title opponent

AAP, The Australian, 29/12/2018

Mining giant Adani has filed a petition to bankrupt an indigenous traditional owner opposed to their controversial Queensland coal mine in an effort to force him to pay over \$600,000 in legal costs.

Adani filed the petition in the Federal Court against Wangan and Jagalingou man Adrian Burragubba after his numerous failed court actions to stop their \$16.5 billion Carmichael mine in the Galilee Basin. "Activists should be held to account. They are not above the law," the company said in a statement.

Adani has vowed to donate to charity any funds from Mr Burragubba. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/dec/30/adani-conservation-area-for-endangered-finch-sits-on-proposed-clive-palmer-mine>

Adani 'conservation area' for endangered finch sits on proposed Clive Palmer mine

Ben Smee, The Guardian, 30/12/2018

Adani has set aside a "conservation area" for the endangered black-throated finch at the same site earmarked for the massive Clive Palmer-backed Alpha North coalmine. ...

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-12-30/adani-provided-evidence-of-illegal-water-bores-lawyers-say/10673422?fbclid=IwAR0omH0o0FgJSD6_90B-WLBBmweUppyMicOrBrQqTclXqssS4Hv0G0B3cMku

Adani provided 'persuasive' evidence of 'illegal' water bores, environmental lawyers say

Josh Robertson, ABC, 30/12/2018

Mining firm Adani has unwittingly provided "persuasive" evidence for a Queensland Government investigation into allegedly illegal works on its Carmichael mine site, environmental lawyers say.

Key points:

Environment department is investigating video evidence of illegal water bores on mine site

EDO says Adani provided data that demonstrates it has broken the rules

Adani insists the bores are operating as permitted under its licence ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/adani-takes-carmichael-mine-plight-to-people-of-brisbane/news-story/bd3a82038db2173ec5546b89b130f913>

Adani takes Carmichael Mine plight to people of Brisbane

Townsville Bulletin, 01/01/2018

Adani's controversial Carmichael Mine is now front and centre of people's minds in Brisbane with a massive billboard erected in Brisbane's Fortitude Valley.

The huge digital sign reads: "We can start tomorrow if we get the nod today. We're ready to start work on the Carmichael Mine".

Adani issued a statement alongside the unveiling of the billboard accusing the State Government of blocking the company's efforts to deliver more than 1500 job opportunities to North and Central Queensland. ...

https://www.afr.com/business/adanis-lawfare-against-indigenous-activist-is-an-awful-look-20190101-h19lrk2fb-clid=lwAR2g7sm2DATNTIJ_ErP-sjzQwwLBEThr7Fn_tCl_vArSaC9r1fr7uA50k94

Adani's lawfare against Indigenous activist is an awful look

Matthew Stevens, AFR, 01/01/2019

The motivation of Adani Mining's decision to launch bankruptcy proceedings against Adrian Burragubba is plain. But the advisability of such a confronting strategy is nothing like as certain. ...

The Wangan & Jagalingou Traditional Owners Family Council has opposed Adani's proposal to build a coal mine on its lands since 2012 and from a

point in 2015 that resistance has played out in the courts. ...

Adani has said that any funds that are recovered will be passed to charity. I am not sure that is going to help much. ...

The decision to pursue Burragubba announces that Adani has had enough by reinforcing the potential that there can be cost to losing at lawfare and that the financial burden of defeat can become fearsomely personal. ... The timing and the optics of the move to bankrupt Burragubba could hardly be worse.

<https://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/am/adani-points-blame-at-qld-govt-as-major-mine-delayed-again/10680842>

Adani points blame at Queensland Government as major mine delayed again

Isobel Roe, ABC, 03/01/2019

A stoush is brewing between the Queensland Government and the Indian mining company building the Carmichael Mine in the Galilee Basin.

Just weeks after Adani announced a downsized project was ready to go, a State Government department has told the company to go back to the drawing board on a controversial groundwater management plan. Adani is firing back, buying space on a billboard in central Brisbane with message for the Queensland Government. ...

<https://www.news.com.au/finance/business/mining/adani-tries-to-bankrupt-wangan-and-jagalingou-man-adrian-burragubba/news-story/46aeeca5f02c61f73b-3840cfddad1>

Adani tries to bankrupt Wangan and Jagalingou man, Adrian Burragubba

Charis Chang, News.com.au, 04/01/2019

Adrian Burragubba has been a thorn in Adani's side for years and now the

mining giant has had enough. ... The W&J Family Council has described the bankruptcy proceedings as "corporate bullying".

"Our people will stand with Mr Burragubba at this trying time. He is a courageous leader who has put our people, country and cultural heritage before his own and his family's personal needs," council chairperson Linda Bobongie said. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/north-queensland-traditional-owner-applies-to-block-adani-expansion-at-abbot-point/news-story/f3f1dd7fc1ca-1464cef4f849b494e09e>

North Queensland traditional owner applies to block Adani expansion at Abbot Point

Sam Bidey & Clare Armstrong, Townsville Bulletin, 05/01/2019

A traditional owner is demanding the Federal Government revoke Adani's permission to expand its port and build a rail line as he says it would destroy sacred indigenous sites.

Juru traditional owner Andrew Morrell has lodged an application with the Federal Government seeking to preserve three areas at Abbot Point where he says planned construction by Adani would "injure or desecrate" significant Ab original areas including ochre grounds, burial sites, shell middens and painted rock art. ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/adani-protester-blocks-abbot-point-rail-line/news-story/4a3f0df9b24a56d72b0c87b6c79e2bd3>

Adani protester blocks Abbot Point rail line

Staff writers, Townsville Bulletin, 08/01/2019

An anti-Adani protester has been charged for allegedly chaining himself to a concrete barrel and blocking the train tracks into the Abbot Point Coal Terminal.

The 37-year-old NSW high school teacher said he knew he would likely be prosecuted for his actions.

He said recent planning work by Adani, the company behind the planned Carmichael mine, inspired him to stage the protest. ...

<https://johnquiggin.com/2019/01/09/adanis-potemkin-village/>

Adani's Potemkin village

John Quiggin, (Blog), 09/01/2018

Throughout the long struggle over Adani's Carmichael mine, I've argued that the project, as well as being envi-

Adani's billboard in Brisbane's Fortitude Valley. Photo: Twitter



ronmentally disastrous, is not financially viable. Adani's objective has been to keep the project alive, both to avoid bringing the loss of money already spent on the project and to maximize the chance that an Australian government will either pay them to go away or stop the project in a way that leaves open the possibility of a claim under the insidious system of Investor State Dispute Settlement, which still applies between Australia and India, even though our trade agreement has lapsed.

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.mudgeeguardian.com.au/story/5811513/bylong-supporters-christmas-wish-for-a-coal-free-valley/>

Bylong supporters take their 'Christmas wish' to offices of Independent Planning Commission

Mudgee Guardian, 14/12/2018

Members of the Bylong Valley Protection Alliance and Lock the Gate took their concerns over the proposed coal project to the offices of the Independent Planning Commission this week through song.

Dozens of carolers descended onto Elizabeth Street, Sydney, on Wednesday with the "Christmas wish" that the Bylong Valley not be given coal.

The fate of the Bylong Coal Project is currently being weighed up by the Commission following their public meeting in Mudgee last month. The timing of the decision is not known. ...

<https://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/5814863/vickery-mine-hearings-delayed-as-another-commissioner-resigns/>

Vickery mine hearings delayed, as another independent commissioner resigns

Jamieson Murphy, Northern Daily Leader, 17/12/2018

Another commissioner has resigned from the independent panel assessing the Vickery coal mine extension, while a record number of registered speakers has forced Tuesday's public hearings to be delayed.

Alice Clark stood down from the Independent Planning Commission panel overseeing the Whitehaven Coal proposal, after she discovered a separate conflict of interest with a Hunter Valley mine she was also assessing. ...

The IPC ... will advertise new dates "in due course". ...

<https://www.illawarramercury.com.au/story/5823494/major-concerns-over-impact-of-illawarra-coal-mines-on-water-catchment/>

Damage to water catchment from mining isn't being adequately assessed, report says

Ben Langford, Illawarra Mercury, 20/12/2018

Mining in the water catchment above the Illawarra escarpment is likely to be causing more environmental damage than planning approvals forecast, a new report from the NSW Chief Scientist says.

And the modelling and monitoring of drinking catchment water had been inadequate at the Dendrobium mine – not providing enough data on groundwater or surface water, or how much of this water is drained into mined areas.

This means claims by mining companies that water damage has been "negligible" may be meaningless, as they can not be properly verified. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/act/canberra-woman-charged-with-serious-offence-after-coal-protest-20181128-p50vww.html?csp=e2b9b5f193c9ea52af480d44c25f21fa>

Canberra woman charged with serious offence after coal protest

Alexandra Back, SMH, 31/12/2018

A Canberra woman has been charged with a serious offence carrying the penalty of jail time in NSW after she allegedly scaled a fence at a Newcastle port and occupied a piece of mining equipment.

Anna Molan ... of Holder, is charged with intentionally or recklessly hindering the working of mining equipment and unlawfully entering the group's inclosed lands and interfering with its daily operations. ... The case was listed to return to court on February 14.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/investigation-under-way-after-man-dies-in-machinery-accident-at-mine/news-story/ee0a3eac18233596390a3c93774c91f5>

Investigation under way after man dies in machinery accident at mine

Jack McKay & Ashley Pillhofer, Courier-Mail, 01/01/2019

An investigation is under way after a sudden death at a mining site in central Queensland.

Emergency services were called to the incident about 10.30pm on Monday night near Dysart, southwest of Mackay.

Police confirmed this morning that there had been a sudden death at the site, but would not provide further information about the incident. ...

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5832299/accidental-activist-dies-suddenly-before-mine-decision/>

The late Ron Fenwick was expected to speak at a Wambo mine expansion public hearing in February

Joanne McCarthy, Newcastle Herald, 02/01/2018

Environment and community groups are mourning the loss of a "Hunter champion" after Bulga cattle farmer Ron Fenwick died suddenly of a heart condition on Christmas Day.

He died before a final decision on expansion of the neighbouring Wambo coal mine, which Mr Fenwick and wife Janet have battled since the 1990s when longwall mining caused significant subsidence on their farm and two creeks. ...

<https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5832796/hunters-mining-bind-how-the-regions-economy-is-overly-dependent-on-the-mining-industry/>

Hunter's mining bind: How the region's economy is overly dependent on the mining industry

Matthew Kelly, Newcastle Herald, 02/01/2019

The Hunter's long-term economic fortunes remain perilously linked to the boom and bust cycle of the mining industry, a parliamentary inquiry has been told.

While surges in the thermal coal price can produce the equivalent of an economic sugar hit to the regional economy, the effects of a slight downturn are also felt far more acutely within the local economy than at a state or national level.

Economists are now concerned about the ongoing effect that the mining industry's infamous 'boom-bust' cycle is having on regional economic sustainability.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/miners-fear-silicosis-and-black-lung-diseases-not-eradicated-but-back-as-case-numbers-rise/news-story/f279a59cf74ca4b07eefcc9a7054e5e>

Miners fear silicosis and black lung diseases not eradicated but back as case numbers rise

Michael Wray, Courier-Mail, 06/01/2019

Mining officials are scrambling to determine the extent of the re-emergence of silicosis in the coal industry amid warnings that workers are still being exposed to potentially deadly dust.

CFMEU mining branch Queensland president Stephen Smyth said the return of silicosis in mining was a time bomb, and he predicted that diagnosis rates would multiply.

So far, 16 cases have been reported in Queensland, but almost 300 health reports sent to the US for analysis are awaiting confirmation for silicosis, pneumoconiosis (also known as black lung), and other mine-dust lung diseases. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/conservation/no-place-for-mining-coal-mines-drain-water-from-dams-20190106-p50pu3.html>

'No place for mining': coal mines drain water from dams

Peter Hannam, SMH, 07/01/2018

Two coal mines in Greater Sydney's catchment area are likely to be diverting millions of litres of water daily from reservoirs, an independent panel has found, prompting calls for a halt to further mining. ...

Don Harwin, the minister for utilities, said water was "a precious resource and any loss is an issue". However, losses from mining were dwarfed by evaporation or environmental flows of as much as 820 million litres per day. ...

<https://www.redlandcitybulletin.com.au/story/5837861/shenhua-mine-documents-kept-from-public/>

Lock the Gate has renewed calls for a commission of inquiry into NSW coal mining

Joanne McCarthy, Redland City Bulletin, 07/01/2018

Lock the Gate Alliance has redoubled calls for a Special Commission of Inquiry into mining in NSW after Hunter whistleblower allegations and a tribunal decision on Wednesday backing the withholding of key documents on the controversial Shenhua coal mine. ...

<https://www.businessacumen.biz/news-companies-on-the-move/3649-from-coal-to-cattle-new-hope-transforms-new-acland>

From coal to cattle: New Hope transforms New Acland

Business Acumen, 07/01/2019

New Hope Group has been praised by Queensland Resources Council chief executive, Ian Macfarlane for the company's work in rehabilitating land at its New Acland coal operations on the Darling Downs – and turning it into a successful pastoral property.

New Hope has received certification from the Queensland Government for 349 hectares of progressively rehabilitated land at New Acland – believed to be the largest area of land from an open cut coal mine ever to receive rehabilitation certification.

The rehabilitated land is now being operated for farming by New Hope's pastoral operations arm, the Acland Pastoral Company (APC). ...

<https://www.nvi.com.au/story/5843479/nsw-re-moves-barrier-for-shenhua-to-start-mine-construction/?cs=373&fbclid=IwAR0xqcKL9TB3G4FKXc079hz-JFij-DLPEX626fd6fgK7seG4jVHrKhMyqsw0>

NSW removes barrier for Shenhua to start mine construction

Mike Foley, Namoi Valley Independent, 09/01/2019

NSW Government has altered the strict requirements for a detailed investigation of Shenhua's Watermark coal mine's impacts to groundwater and vegetation.

Days before Christmas the Planning Department announced it had agreed to Shenhua's request to modify development consent for the Watermark project.

NSW's changes allow Shenhua to commence pre-construction works before it has submitted studies on the mine's impacts to vegetation and groundwater – which fall under the "water trigger" laws.

MINING MAYHEM

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-12-16/whistleblowers-raise-alarm-about-lead-dust-in-ocean-from-ships/10623596?fbclid=IwAR090BOYK-lAhOg9IMx8cnwnsu-Zmpw9e8zMbfqtXNxVLYQK8aLD5LFUItA>

Shipping workers say blind eye turned to lead-zinc ocean spills for years

Jane Bardon, ABC, 16/12/2018

Former crewmen who worked on the barge which brings lead-zinc concentrate from the Northern Territory's McArthur River Mine to be loaded onto export ships have alleged they witnessed regular spills of the product overboard for a decade.

Key points:

Workers allege tonnes of lead-zinc concentrate have spilled into the Gulf

Crew members said safety measures were inadequate to stop lead impacts

Barging company says it has invested in dust control and worker protection measures ...

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/national/farming-in-south-australia-farmers-reveal-the-stress-of-fighting-mining-exploration/news-story/e5bf6787d-d099e49dd49d452f28e9415?csp=cf84dac8391360d85c-001b5eeec6f3fc>

Farming in South Australia: Farmers reveal the stress of fighting mining exploration

Rebecca Digirolamo, Sunday Mail, 15/12/2018

Knock, knock, knock.

It's the sound some South Australian farmers are absolutely terrified of hearing – because the consequences of which can sometimes result in a life on the land left in limbo.

"Once a mining company knocks on the door wanting access to your property, farm life and the farming business suddenly changes forever," says Bronte Gregurke. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/the-economy/coal-is-australia-s-most-valuable-export-in-2018-20181220-p50nd4.html>

Coal is Australia's most valuable export in 2018

Cole Latimer, SMH, 21/12/2018

Coal will replace iron ore as Australia's most valuable export this financial year as supply concerns lead to a steep price rise for the core commodity.

The Department of Industry, Innovation and Science's latest Resources and Energy Quarterly report said thermal and coking coal export values would reach \$67 billion in total in 2018-19, slightly higher than iron ore's \$61 billion in value. ...

Australia is also expected to overtake Qatar as the world's largest LNG exporter in 2019, buoyed by increasing export values, which grew from \$31 billion in 2017-18 to \$50 billion this financial year. ...

GAS, GAS, GAS

<https://www.watoday.com.au/national/western-australia/readers-left-in-dark-on-state-daily-s-fracking-interests-20181214-p50mg3.html>

Readers left in dark on state daily's fracking interests

Emma Young, WA Today, 17/12/2018

The West Australian has repeatedly failed to disclose its owner's billion-dollar investments in the oil and gas industry in its coverage of the state government's mining policies. ...

Businessman Kerry Stokes' private company is Australian Capital Equity, which owns 61 per cent of Seven Group Holdings. Together those two companies own 82 per cent of Seven West Media – publisher of *The West*

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Australian – and 57.14 per cent (almost \$2 billion) of oil and gas company Beach Energy.

Beach Energy has a 50 per cent share of the massive Waitsia gas project east of Dongara in the Mid West – one of the largest onshore gas discoveries in Australian history.

It also has interests in other identified onshore tight gas fields around Dongara ...

Dr Joseph Fernandez, an Associate Professor at Curtin University's School of Journalism and Communication, who specialises in media regulation, said pieces warranted a disclosure when the author was employed by a media organisation which itself had a substantial financial interest in the matter written about. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/dec/18/western-australia-is-being-opened-to-fracking-on-misleading-and-ill-founded-grounds>

Western Australia is being opened to fracking on misleading and ill-founded grounds

Piers Verstegen, The Guardian, 18/12/2018

The response to the announcement by premier Mark McGowan that Western Australia would be opened up to fracking has been first disbelief, followed by anger. History shows people are prepared to accept unpopular policies when a solid rationale is laid out based on sound evidence and analysis, but that is certainly not the case with this decision.

Journalists at the closed media briefing immediately saw through the disingenuous spin that 98% of the state will be crack free. Fracking 2% of WA is an area of 5 million hectares, or 50,000 square kilometres – around three quarters the size of the state of Tasmania.

But it's the location of the fracking sites that is concerning: in the Mid West, directly covering the Yarragadee aquifer where Perth draws its drinking water; near Carnarvon, in the water catchment of fruit and vegetable growers producing much of our fresh produce; and a vast area in the iconic Kimberley, where many Traditional Owner groups have been calling for fracking to be banned. ...

• *Piers Verstegen is the director of the Conservation Council of Western Australia*

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/oil/santos-gets-arena-funding-for-solar-pumping-in-cooper-basin-20181217-h197qx>

Santos gets ARENA funding for solar pumping in Cooper Basin

Anglea Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 18/12/2018

Santos has secured funding from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency to support what is being billed as the country's first off-grid, 100 per cent renewable energy project in the oil and gas sector.

The \$16.3 million pilot project will convert the fuel for pumps in Santos' petroleum operations in the Cooper Basin from crude oil to solar, with the solar PV panels to be backed up by storage. ...

Some \$4.2 million of funds will be supplied by ARENA for the project ...

<https://thewest.com.au/business/energy/shells-ocean-giant-prelude-a-step-closer-to-full-start-ng-b881056406z>

Shell's ocean giant Prelude a step closer to full start

Peter Milne, West Australian, 21/12/2018

Shell's giant Prelude floating LNG vessel is edging closer to production as the accommodation vessel that housed up to 750 workers over the year moves away to allow the final stages of start-up to occur.

The Posh Arcadia accommodation vessel sailed to a station about 6km north of Prelude on Thursday morning, according to vessel tracking website MarineTraffic.

A Shell spokeswoman said the company continued to prepare Prelude for operations. "We expect to see production around the end of the year," she said. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/call-to-end-gas-pricing-secrecy/news-story/24e388e-8bce17d2a62613f884d76a30f>

Call to end gas pricing secrecy

Paul Garvey, The Australian, 22/12/2018

Australia's liquefied natural gas producers could be forced to disclose sensitive information about the pricing of their gas exports under new recommendations unveiled by the competition watchdog.

A report handed down yesterday by the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission and the Gas Market Reform Group outlined a host of measures aimed at improving the transparency of the gas market, which has been marred in recent years by soaring prices.

Among the recommendations was a call for LNG producers to release details of their exports and their export prices for publication. ...

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/dec/27/woodside-seeks-approval-for-gas-project-near-wa-dampier-marine-reserves?CMP=soc_567&fbclid=IwAR0AksOkyum4LGu7tennKYXAaKwLZgha-j9qwZ-hK8TxG0Nr7s7cRQ89ySLc

Woodside seeks approval for gas project near WA's Dampier marine reserves

Lisa Cox, The Guardian, 27/12/2018

The oil and gas company Woodside Energy has applied for federal approval for dredging and pipeline construction in waters near the Western Australian Dampier Archipelago marine reserves. ...

A development proposal for the state waters component of the project was published by the federal environment department on Christmas Eve. Under environment protection and biodiversity conservation regulations the public has only 10 business days to comment once a referral is published. ...

Conservationists said the project was complex and questioned why the development proposal had been put on public exhibition immediately before the Christmas shutdown period. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/dec/29/plan-to-dump-15m-tonnes-of-salt-waste-in-murray-darling-headwaters-hits-roadblock>

Plan to dump 15m tonnes of salt waste in Murray-Darling headwaters hits roadblock

Ben Smee, The Guardian, 29/12/2018

Controversial plans to dump up to 15m tonnes of salt and other waste near a creek in drought-stricken Queensland have hit an unexpected roadblock after a court ruled that planning approvals do not allow for trucks to park at the site. ...

https://www.theherald.com.au/story/5821441/galilee-basin-to-hunter-gas-pipeline-renewal-plan-has-critics-seeing-red/?cs=305&fbclid=IwAR3i1TX3Sv-5QhUSbHPYtLghuy3lp50aHlpxyT_yKTeMmeGP5fZniaP5rk

Gas pipeline backer Garbis Simonian says his \$1 billion-plus plan is "insurance" for NSW gas users

Joanne McCarthy, Newcastle Herald, 26/12/2018

The backer of a controversial 2009 plan for a gas pipeline from Queensland's Galilee basin gas fields to the Hunter says renewing the approval for another five years, despite no work for a decade, is "insurance" for NSW gas users.

Hunter Gas Pipeline managing director Garbis Simonian rejected overwhelming opposition to the renewal from community and environment groups, and questions from affected councils and government agencies, and strongly criticised Australian governments for failing to commit to a national energy policy in the public interest. ...

<https://www.afr.com/business/energy/gas/lng-players-in-talks-for-us4b-wa-project-20190104-h19ptu>

LNG players in talks for \$US4b WA project

Angela Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 06/01/2019

Asian LNG buyers, producers and traders are among potential partners for a new circa \$US4 billion (\$5.6 billion) LNG project planned just off the Western Australian coast by private player Western Gas, whose executive director Andrew Leibovitch says is drawing keen interest. ...

The plant would have a capacity of 1.5 million-2 million tonnes a day of LNG, much smaller than the monster North West Shelf or Gorgon plants, but still involving a material amount of capacity. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/opinion/russian-gas-export-could-disrupt-australias-lng-dream/news-story/af03d1fbb8780f657988705b9db8fee2csp=08683d4ce45367ea5a6e04bb1e782d6d>

Russian gas export could disrupt Australia's LNG dream

Elizabeth Buchanan, The Australian, 08/01/2019

By 2020, Australia is set to be the world's largest LNG net exporter.

But this will not last as long as Canberra once thought, with Russian firm Novatek set to disrupt Australia's LNG export dreams. ...

Novatek has not masked its export agenda – it is widely known in the commercial sector that its business model is to become the world's cheapest LNG supplier.

Novatek recently unveiled that its Arctic LNG 2 project was set to reduce production costs of Russian LNG by 30 per cent. This is a significant security threat for Australia.

Geographically, Novatek's LNG plant sits within the "polar silk road", otherwise known as the Arctic's Northern Sea Route.

As a result of climate change the region is seeing reduced ice thickness, making much of the NSR navigable for LNG tankers season-round, and in sum-

mer without the need for icebreaker support. ...

• Dr Elizabeth Buchanan is a Jean Monnet Research Fellow with the Centre for European Studies at the Australian National University.

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/central-coast/offshore-gas-exploration-company-pushes-ahead-with-survey-off-central-coast/news-story/ee-a372025a75df16f0210e26949c8601>

Offshore gas exploration: Company pushes ahead with survey off Central Coast

Cathy Stubbs, Central Coast Gosford Express Advocate, 09/01/2018

The possibility of offshore gas drilling along the NSW coast has been raised again with news that MEC Resources intends to push ahead with its so called PEP11 project.

The company did three days of 2D surveying along 200km of coastline between Sydney and Newcastle in the first half of last year over an area known as "the baleen prospect" which is understood to have given promising results.

This proposal could now become an election issue after the NSW Greens jumped on the plan calling for the NSW government to rule out any gas fields in the area. ...

NSW Greens Marine spokesman Justin Field said the government's "benign objection" to gas drilling in the past had been largely ignored by MEC.

"The lack of action by the NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian shows that the NSW Government is prepared to stand quietly by while Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Federal Resources Minister Matt Canavan turn the NSW Coastline into a gas field," Mr Field said. ...

<https://thewest.com.au/business/energy/chevron-to-torch-toxic-gases-at-gorgon-over-health-fears-ng-b881067217z>

Chevron to torch toxic gases at Gorgon over health fears

Peter Milne, West Australian, 08/01/2019

Workers' health concerns have caused Chevron to plan changes to how it disposes of some waste gases on Barrow Island.

Since the Gorgon LNG project started production almost two years ago, gases containing mercury and BTEX – a combination of hydrocarbons that can cause cancer – have been vented to the air.

Chevron has applied to the Department of Water and Environmental

Regulation for approval for a temporary fix to the problem by burning the waste gases in a gas flare. ...

Burning is expected to destroy 98 per cent of the BTEX. It will not affect the mercury, but the metal will be vented further away from the workers at the LNG plant.

About 13,000 tonnes of natural gas a year will be added to the waste gases to ensure they are burnt effectively. ...

Chevron's original plan had been to inject the waste gases underground with the troubled \$2.5 billion carbon dioxide injection system that is yet to start up.

The Gorgon operator is considering alternatives to this plan because of concern that mercury may affect the compressors that push the carbon dioxide underground. ...

Chevron is supposed to inject 80 per cent of carbon dioxide from its reservoirs.

<https://www.queenslandcountrylife.com.au/story/5842237/exploring-prime-ag-land-protections/>

Exploring prime ag land protections

Stuart Armitage, QFF president 9 Jan 2019

In Queensland, we continue to see the permanent loss of the best farm land in the state to manufacturing, industrial uses, urban sprawl, services, utilities, and increasingly, mining. ...

In 2018, an additional 44,300sq km was made available for mineral, petroleum, gas, and coal resource exploration in Queensland – more than double the 19,140sq km of land that was opened up in 2017. ...

LEIGH CK STINK

<https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/business/sa-business-journal/leigh-creek-energy-produces-commercial-quality-gas-while-asking-shareholders-for-more-capital/news-story/46550ec26070c77904550e357cd267e1>

Leigh Creek Energy produces commercial quality gas while asking shareholders for more capital

Cameron England, The Advertiser, 08/01/2019

Leigh Creek Energy is producing "commercial quality synthetic gas", albeit not at commercial flow rates yet, from its pilot gas production project in South Australia.

The company said it had achieved 13 days of continuous production of commercial quality gas at its pre-commercial demonstration plant, as part of a 90-day test. ...

The project was now producing a synthetic gas with up to 20 per cent methane, LCK said.

If the pilot is successful, the company aims to use the gas for fertiliser production. ...

<https://stockhead.com.au/energy/leigh-creeks-syngas-plant-is-working-but-theyve-still-not-hit-the-crucial-target/>

Leigh Creek's syngas plant is working, but they've still not hit the crucial target

Rachel Williamson, Stockhead, 08/01/2019

Synthetic gas producer Leigh Creek says its pilot plant has been running for a solid 89 days, and managed to deliver 13 days worth of high quality gas.

But it's still waiting for the plant to deliver commercial quantities of gas, a point which will mark the start of a 90-day trial. ...

IMPORT INSANITY

<https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/hoegh-lng-selected-as-the-fsru-provider-to-agls-crib-point-lng-project/>

Höegh LNG selected as the FSRU provider to AGL's Crib Point LNG project

Hellenic Shipping News, 21/12/2018

Höegh LNG Holdings Ltd announced that it has entered into a time charter party with AGL Shipping Pty Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of AGL Energy Ltd, for the provision of a floating storage and regasification unit to facilitate its proposed Gas Import Jetty project at Crib Point, Victoria, Australia that is targeting start up in 2020 – 2021.

The charter is for a period of 10 years and remains conditional on the board of directors of AGL Energy taking a final investment decision in relation to the project and receipt by the charterer of key environmental project approvals. ...

<http://mpnews.com.au/2019/01/08/a-splashing-paddling-protest/>

A splashing, paddling protest

Keith Platt, Mornington Peninsula News, 08/01/2019

Sunday may not have been the summer's best beach day, but that did not deter hundreds of people going to the Pines Beach, Shoreham.

Instead of sunning themselves, swimming or going for a surf, the beachgoers were intent on sending the state and federal governments a message: don't allow power company AGL to moor a floating gas import and processing terminal at Crib Point.



Beachgoers had a paddle-out to protest AGL's plan to put a gas import terminal at Crib Point, Victoria on January 6. Photo: Facebook

Serious concerns about the health and safety aspects of the proposed terminal underlined the festive atmosphere on the beach where protesters were fed information about the 300-metre long "gas factory" along with barbecued food and live entertainment.

In the water a variety of floating craft – surfboards, stand up paddle boards, boogie boards, canoes, surf skis and a couple of boats – were maneuvered into a heart shape to symbolise the protesters love for Western Port. ...

NUKE MADNESS

https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/article/2018/12/19/flinders-ranges-traditional-owners-fight-proposed-nuclear-waste-dump?fbclid=IwAR1m3U2ECTBCowpNvqdMrGf-0ncj7nV023_YXVikixQTXLC04yXqBDGgSY

Flinders Ranges Traditional Owners fight proposed nuclear waste dump

Royce Kurmelovs, NITV, 19/12/2018

A second group of traditional owners in South Australia have taken their fight against a proposed nuclear waste dump to the courts after lodging a complaint with the Human Rights Commission yesterday.

The complaint by the Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association (ATLA) alleges a vote carried out by the Flinders Rangers Council to gauge community support for the development of a nuclear waste dump at one of the three sites north of Hawker was geographically limited and excluded traditional owners.

Another aspect of the complaint concerns damage already done to sacred sites in the region by survey teams which caused much distress to Adnyamathanha women. ...

The legal action is the second in recent months, with the Barngarla Determination Aboriginal Corporation filing an application with the Federal Court earlier this year challenging the Kimba ballot. ...

FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-12-16/united-nations-climate-talks-reach-agreement-on-paris-agreement/10624848?section=world>

UN's COP24 climate talks reach global consensus on the rulebook to cap global warming

ABC, 17/12/2018

After two weeks of bruising negotiations, officials from almost 200 countries now agree on universal, transparent rules that will govern efforts to cut emissions and curb global warming.

Key points:

Most countries now have a common rulebook to cap global warming between 1.5 and 2 degrees Celsius

Delegates brought Brazil to heel after it argued in favour of opaque emissions reporting

Efforts to enshrine more ambitious emissions reduction is postponed until 2019 ...

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/national/labor-promises-to-overhaul-20-year-old-environmental-laws-as-anti-adani-mine-and-refugee-protesters-target-national-conference/news-story/3b8a08827954d55c7e649dc7437f10fa?csp=ab7d556b43552d43d754b9ba9bc4db6f>

Labor promises to overhaul 20-year-old environmental laws as anti-Adani mine and refugee protesters target national conference

Matt Smith, The Advertiser, 16/12/2018

Labor has promised to introduce a raft of measures to protect the environment, arguing that current laws are stuck in the 20th century. ...

Opposition environment spokesman Tony Burke told delegates Labor would introduce a raft of measures to stop unnecessary land clearing, protect national parks and reduce plastic polluting the ocean.

"Labor will also establish a new agency, a Federal EPA, with the mission to protect Australia's natural environment," Mr Burke said. ...

The announcement came too late to stop significant protests both inside and outside the conference. ...

A low-profile environmental charity, headed by a former Greenpeace activist, has launched a major public ad campaign challenging Opposition Leader Bill Shorten to stop Queensland's Adani coal mine.

The Sunrise Project, which describes itself as "a hybrid campaigning and funding organisation", has authorised ads timed with Mr Shorten's visit to Adelaide, calling for him and the ALP to be a leader and party "we can believe in". ...

The NSW-based charity, part of the Stop Adani Alliance, was founded in 2012 by former Greenpeace campaigner John Hepburn. ...

<https://www.echo.net.au/2018/12/new-govt-tender-process-favour-coal-power/>

New govt tender process could favour coal power

Giles Parkinson, Echonet Daily, 18/12/2018

The Coalition government has unveiled the details of its rushed proposal to underwrite 'new generation investments', and it looks for all the world like a document that can be tailored to deliver whatever the government wants.

And in this case it looks increasingly like an opportunity to use taxpayers money to support the extension of an existing coal generator, most likely Vales Point in NSW. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/dec/19/nsw-excoriates-federal-coalition-over-blocking-of-emissions-reduction-vote>

NSW excoriates federal Coalition over blocking of emissions reduction vote

Paul Karp, The Guardian, 19/12/2018

The New South Wales energy minister has blasted his Coalition colleagues in the federal government for blocking his attempt to debate emissions reduction at an energy ministers meeting.

Don Harwin said he was "very disappointed" with the outcome of the Council of Australian Governments energy council on Wednesday because an obligation to reduce emissions is "absolutely critical" to encourage investment in new power generation and lower prices.

Federal energy minister Taylor used procedural grounds to prevent a vote on what he said was "new business". ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/climate/climate-push-liberal-minister-don-harwins-coal-links/news-story/0ce8d75195d31a06d65ecf1b5070f33b7csp=7c49d4dd769dcbad1f443b4f926048b5b>

Climate-push Liberal minister Don Harwin's coal links

Geoff Chambers & Joe Kelly, The Australian, 20/12/2018

NSW Energy Minister Don Harwin, who yesterday attacked Scott Morrison's energy policy and is lobbying for more renewables and emissions cuts, invited the state's biggest coalminers to a \$990-a-head Liberal Party fundraising dinner last month.

The Australian can reveal Mr Harwin invited Glencore, Malabar Coal, Centennial Coal, Alinta Energy, Bengalla, Whitehaven and AGL to a dinner at Sydney restaurant Lucio's. The function on November 29 was to celebrate Mr Harwin's 20th anniversary of his election to the NSW parliament and featured special guest Gladys Berejiklian and nine frontbench colleagues, including Andrew Constance, Rob Stokes, Brad Hazzard and Matt Kean. ...

In response to questions about his piece in a coal magazine, Mr Harwin said there was "absolutely" a future for coal in the state. ...

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/an-anti-nationals-group-is-rising-and-wants-barnaby-joyce-gone-20181231-p50owg.html?csp=2baa703b17f2654f2dc50f73f7f3a1>

An anti-Nationals group is rising and wants Barnaby Joyce gone

Max Koslowski, SMH, 02/01/2019

Emerging anti-Nationals organisation Anyone But Nats will start the new

year with \$60,000 in the bank and a mission to take on the perennial rural party at the NSW and federal elections, with Barnaby Joyce as its prime target.

The group's foundation, and growing support, comes after the Nationals' scandal-plagued 2018, starting with former leader Mr Joyce's affair and ending with Mallee member Andrew Broad's "sugar baby" controversy...

Anyone But Nats will support viable candidates in Nationals-held seats. ...

Anyone But Nats co-founder Rohan Boehm believes the National Party is facing an existential election.

"Those blokes aren't untouchable," he said of the party's elected MPs. ...

Anyone But Nats is backed by fellow co-founder Charles Tym, an IT businessman who contributed \$20,000 to the group at its outset. ...

Key issues motivating the candidates include the National Party's support for coal seam gas projects, discontent with the party's water management and Murray-Darling basin plan, and the belief that this year's scandals underline the party's "arrogance". ...

Mr Boehm, who lives in Narrabri – bordering the Pilliga forest, where Santos operates a controversial coal seam gasfield – said the Nationals' support for coal seam gas was a flashpoint in regional communities, and one that challenging candidates will look to exploit. ...

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/climate/greens-galilee-basin-bill-could-increase-global-carbon-emissions/news-story/bce71f265201daf59cb304da8703727a>

Greens' Galilee Basin bill 'could increase global carbon emissions'

Richard Ferguson, The Australian, 04/01/2019

A Greens bill banning thermal coalmining in Queensland's Galilee Basin could increase global carbon emissions, the Mineral Council of Australia says.

If made law, Greens senator Larissa Waters's bill would permanently ban the mining of all coal in the Galilee Basin and stop the Adani Carmichael mine from starting operations.

A submission from the MCA to be lodged today with a Senate inquiry into the bill states demand for thermal coal will remain high whether the Galilee Basin is mined or not, and this will lead to an increase of lower grade coal production in developing countries. ...

News this week ... from previous page

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/laws-that-could-kill-20000-mining-jobs/news-story/34b20b504eb6335619cfb97a-f06e2e7d>

Laws that could kill 20,000 mining jobs

Renee Viellaris, *Courier-Mail*, 04/01/2019

A shock Bill to ban coalmining in Queensland – killing off 20,000 new jobs – will be used as rallying cry to lure voters back to the LNP and turn pressure back on Opposition Leader Bill Shorten.

The influential Minerals Council of Australia has slammed proposed laws by the Greens that not only deliberately target the operations of mining magnates Gina Rinehart, Clive Palmer and Adani, but also make it illegal to dig up thermal coal in the Galilee Basin. ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jan/04/greater-manchester-tells-fracking-firms-they-are-not-welcome>

Local councils heading for fracking showdown with government

Helen Pidd & Matthew Taylor, *The Guardian*, 05/01/2019

Ministers are facing a fresh confrontation with local councils over their controversial plans to expand fracking, after one of the biggest combined authorities in the country set out plans to ban the practice.

Greater Manchester's decision to effectively stop companies from extracting underground shale gas in the region was greeted as a critical moment in the fight against fracking, which critics say is dangerous and unproven. ...

<https://www.afr.com/business/mining/attention-seeking-coal-ban-destined-to-fail-former-energy-minister-20190104-h19ptf>

'Attention seeking' coal ban destined to fail: former energy minister

Joanna Mather, *AFR*, 04/01/2019

Australia's longest-serving energy and resources minister, former Liberal MP Ian Macfarlane, is confident Labor will reject a bill put forward by the Greens to ban coal mining in Queensland's Galilee Basin, guaranteeing its defeat. ...

He said Labor's approach to such matters was as realistic and pragmatic as the Coalition's. Moreover, mining in the Galilee Basin had the support of the CFMEU. ...

https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/jan/09/peta-credlins-preselection-could-be-the-spark-that-blows-up-the-liberal-party?CMP=share_btn_fb&fbclid=IwAR2K4oL8n3-90BpYsshzv04L_kiVU_977kiU7AeaQBXYa-pUloEBn0a5GKeU

Peta Credlin's preselection could be the spark that blows up the Liberal party

Oliver Yates, *The Guardian*, 09/01/2019

What better example is there that the Liberal party must split than the proposed nomination of Peta Credlin for the seat of Mallee. ...

The Liberal party is suffering an existential crisis. And no other issue defines this crisis like the looming threat to our safety and security caused by inaction on climate change. Credlin understands this and has used her position as a climate change-denying, hard-right mouthpiece of the Murdoch empire to advance her own political interests, and the interests of the coal industry. ...

Credlin's demonstrated lack of understanding of the serious climate emergency we face, or even the basic economics of power production costs are breathtaking. She promotes the view that climate change is some left-wing conspiracy and that the science is rubbish.

These views need to be called for what they are: dangerous. ...

• *Oliver Yates is a member of the Liberal party and former chief executive of the Clean Energy Finance Corporation*

<https://www.theland.com.au/story/5840578/climate-report-confirms-climate-reality-say-farmers/>

Climate report confirms climate reality, say farmers

The Land, 10/01/2019

The 2018 State of the Climate report, which projects more extreme heat-waves and severe droughts across much of Australia, is yet another dire warning of the costs of climate inaction, said Farmers for Climate Action today.

The jointly-produced report from the Bureau Meteorology and CSIRO, confirms that Australia's climate has warmed more than 1°C over the past century, and this is exacerbating the frequency of extreme heat events. Rainfall is also decreasing dramatically over the southwest of the country.

Farmers for Climate Action CEO Verity Morgan-Schmidt said: "The report demonstrates the worsening conditions that many Australian farmers have been struggling with for months now, and the urgent need to take climate action immediately. ...

"Climate change is here now. We can't afford to kick the can down the road any further.

"Yet the Federal Government is approving new thermal coal mines, pursuing the underwriting of coal power generation and demonstrating absolutely no capacity to address the challenges we face. ...

FFB

SACRIFICE ZONE

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

<https://vimeo.com/257444267>



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



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