



Fossil Fool Bulletin

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

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W&J Traditional Owners appeal for help as Qld hands their land to Adani

By Eve Sinton

Wangan & Jagalingou (W&J) Family Council members have discovered their native title over land earmarked for the Carmichael Mine has been extinguished by the Queensland government – and their land handed over, freehold, to Adani.

The government acted in secret, and only revealed their move in a meeting with W&J representatives in Brisbane this week.

Adani swiftly followed with a threatening letter to the W&J, and a visit to their camp by two staff members.

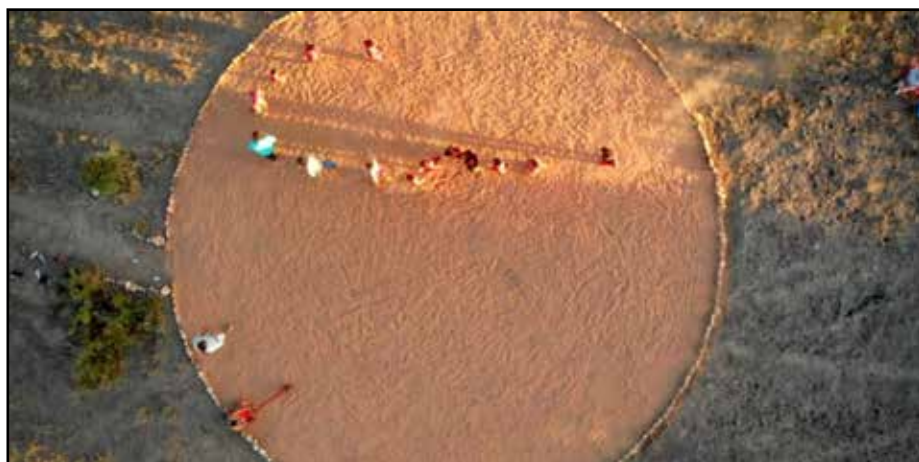
Wangan & Jagalingou cultural leader, Adrian Burragubba, said: “We have been made trespassers on our own Country. Our ceremonial grounds, in place for a time of mourning for our lands as Adani begins its destructive processes, are now controlled by billionaire miner Adani.

“With insider knowledge that the deal was already done, Adani had engaged Queensland police and threatened us with trespass.

Adani threatens to call the cops

“In a notice received by the Council, police advised the area on our country that we currently occupy “is to be handed over to Adani on 31 August 2019”. It says “that Adani will request the assistance of police to remove Mr Burragubba and his supporters from the camp.”

The ABC confirmed that Queensland police have asked for help with Indigenous “cultural sensitivities” in case



ABOVE: A ceremonial site at the W&J Traditional Owners' camp.

BELOW: Adrian Burragubba explains the W&J's opposition to Adani's mine. Photos: Supplied



Video: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/>

mining firm Adani requests traditional owners be removed from its Galilee Basin project site.

Burragubba reacted: “This Government and mining corporation, working hand in hand, had already sealed the

deal in secret. They are criminalising our cultural laws and practice. It is now so perverse, that in a threatening letter from Adani Mining to our Council, denying our common law native

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• P3: Gomeroi custodians challenge Sussan Ley

• P4: NT First Peoples resist fracking

• P5: Adani to get billions in subsidies

Adani likely to start evictions

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title right to access our land, we are told we need Adani's 'prior consent' to be on our own Country."

Adani's letter warned Burragubba he had 'trespassed' on its Moray Downs property by entering 'without Adani's prior consent'.

"Adani does not grant you such consent," the company said.

"You ... and all people accompanying you are required not to trespass on any area of the pastoral lease, nor on any other property occupied, owned or leased by Adani."

The W&J said, "Our land has always been First Nations sovereign land, because of our culture and how we maintain our culture. And we're not going anywhere.

"By denying us ceremony and the right to claim and maintain physical contact with the land and our ancestors, they are denying our fundamental human rights.

"This is always going to be First Nations land. They will not move us from our sacred places."

Dilemma for Qld Police

The stand-off provides a dilemma for Queensland Police, whose cultural engagement unit has written to a native title services provider asking for help.

"It is likely that Adani will request the assistance of police to remove Mr Burragubba and his supporters from the camp," Acting Senior Sergeant David Lucas said.

"We are looking to resolve this issue allowing for cultural sensitivities and as such would like to speak to signatories of the ILUA [Indigenous Land Use Agreement with Adani] who may be able to assist us or appeal to Mr Adrian Burragubba."

The W&J have appealed to supporters to back their stand against Adani.

"Friends, the moment that threatened us has come, and we need you with us.

"Now is the time for all our supporters to stand with us in solidarity, to prevent the permanent destruction of our culture."

People are invited to sign a pledge.



Adani employees visit the W&J Traditional Owners' camp on September 3. INSET: Adani's camp site sign. Photos: Supplied

The pledge is located at:

<https://wanganjagalingou.com.au/pledge-to-stand-with-us/>

And as of Friday afternoon, had over 13,600 signatures.

Ceremonial camp established

"We will maintain our defence of country and stay on our homelands, despite Adani demanding that police remove our people from a ceremonial camp established last weekend at the site.

"We will be there to care for our lands and waters, hold ceremonies, and uphold the ancient, abiding law of the land."

The W&J's legal battle to stop Adani has held up the mine for eight years.

Court hearings, where it was alleged that Adani had stacked native title meetings to achieve their desired outcome, have all rejected the W&J's case.

Adani's revenge

In a spiteful act of revenge, Adani has now bankrupted Adrian Burragubba over \$600,000 worth of legal costs.

The company has a track record of using police or its own security goons to get rid of tribal people in the way of its Indian mines, power plants and ports.

An example is the fight for land rights and water resources in Jharkhand, where the state government is acquiring fertile farmland for Adani to set up a 1,600-megawatt plant, which will run on imported coal and sell the power to Bangladesh.

Adani said project would employ "10,000 persons" (sound familiar?). But local residents say the only livelihood generated has been a handful of temporary sand supply contracts.

Meanwhile, the company's drilling activities have dropped the water table, causing acute water shortages.

People were injured by police when a public hearing for the project had turned violent in 2017.

Pradeep Yadav, a member of the Poreyahat Legislative Assembly, spent five months in prison for protesting against land acquisition for Adani.

A farmer's fields were overrun with a bulldozer by Adani contractors to force the family to vacate the land.

The W&J have a formidable enemy.

• See more: *Adani vs Villagers: the fight for land rights and water resources in Jharkhand*

<https://www.newslandry.com/2019/05/17/adani-vs-villagers-the-fight-for-land-rights-and-water-resources-in-jharkhand>

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**HELP W&J PEOPLE
GET JUSTICE
FROM ADANI:
MAKE A DONATION**

**Wangan Jagalingou Traditional Owners
Aboriginal Corporation**

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

<https://wanganjagalingou.com.au/donate/>

Gomeri custodians hope to prevent Shenhua coal mine from destroying their sacred places

By Eve Sinton

The Environmental Defenders Office NSW is acting for Veronica 'Dolly' Talbott, as a member of the Gomeri Traditional Custodians (also known as Gamilaaray, or Kamillaroi) in a challenge to the federal environment minister, Sussan Ley.

EDO NSW has filed proceedings in the Federal Court challenging the lawfulness of a decision by the minister not to grant protection to several Significant Areas of Aboriginal cultural heritage within the footprint of the approved Shenhua Watermark open cut coal mine on the Liverpool Plains.

The minister made this decision on August 27, despite acknowledging the "immeasurable" cultural value of the sacred places and objects under direct threat of destruction and desecration.

Constitutional test case

This will be an important Constitutional test case.

The Gomeri Traditional Custodians first lodged an application for protection of the Significant Areas in April 2015 under s.10 of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 (Cth) (ATSIHP Act). The purpose of the ATSIHP Act is:

The preservation and protection from injury or desecration of areas and objects in Australia and in Australian waters, being areas and objects that are of particular significance to Aboriginals in accordance with Aboriginal tradition.

The minister acknowledged that the development of the mine would destroy or desecrate the Significant Areas, but concluded that the mine's potential economic and social benefits outweighed their heritage value.

Elders deeply hurt

Dolly Talbott expressed the deep hurt felt by the Elders and the community at this decision and that there was no choice other than to fight it.

"When we heard of the minister's decision, there was a high level of confusion and disbelief. Does our culture, our spiritual and sacred places of Aboriginal heritage, mean nothing in this country? We believe the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage



EDO NSW solicitor Nadja Zimmermann, Gomeri custodian Dolly Talbott and acting principle solicitor Brendan Dobbie. Photo: Brendan Dobbie

Protection Act 1984 was put in place to protect our heritage, but in this case it hasn't at all.

"If this mega-mine proceeds, our interlinked sacred places will be completely destroyed and obliterated from the landscape. We will no longer be able to read our Country, share our sacred places with our children and grandchildren. Our ancestors' footprints, their legacy to us, will be lost – lost forever," Dolly said.

"Our heritage shouldn't be discounted for possible mining jobs in the future. We already have viable jobs in agriculture, and our heritage sites in this area have survived despite agriculture over many years."

Dolly Talbott said: "We have been trying to work within a system that is there to protect us and our cultural heritage. We have met all the criteria required under the ATSIHP Act. The process was difficult and took four long years to be assessed. They acknowledge that our heritage will be desecrated, obliterated – it would be gone forever. They acknowledge the areas we sought protection of are of immeasurable value, sacred to us as a people and important for our cultural traditions – and yet the minister has turned us down."

Guided by ancestors

"But our opposition is enduring. We are being guided by our ancestors. Our elders who protected these sites want this generation to carry on in the struggle to protect them."

"We are the only ones who have no monetary interest in this", said Dolly, "We just want to protect our heritage, our sacred places. As the oldest living culture on the planet, surely this should be of utmost importance to Australia?"

"If our sacred places are obliterated, we will no longer be able to read Country. It would also destroy the sacred connections for our neighbouring traditional people," said Dolly.

"So it doesn't just impact us, the Gomeri people and our clan groups, it impacts other First peoples clan groups as well."

David Morris, CEO of the EDO NSW, added, "We feel privileged to work with our client Dolly Talbott of the Gomeri Traditional Custodians. The minister's decision raises important questions about how the ATSIHP Act works in practice.

Minister made an error of law

• Continued from p3

“Our client will argue that the minister made an error of law, incorrectly applying the legislation which is designed to protect Aboriginal Cultural Heritage. This will be an important test case, interrogating the limits of the Constitutional basis for the Act and the matters which the minister was permitted to consider in deciding to refuse protection for the areas.”

The Significant Areas, which are within the footprint of the mine, are an important cultural junction and part of a broader Aboriginal cultural landscape. They include sacred places and significant ceremonial corridors. The interlinked sites also include, but are not limited to, large grinding groove sites, scarred trees and artefactual objects of high order significance irreplaceable to the Gomeri Traditional Custodians. If the mega-mine of three open-cut pits went ahead, not only would the existing landscape be destroyed but it would be replaced by a new, mine-created landscape.

Shenhua keeps low profile

North West Protection Advocacy noted that, in the meantime, Shenhua Watermark Coal Pty Ltd has removed signage from their premises at Conadilly St, Gunnedah, and staff last week were informing the public that “Shenhua is not here any more” despite other visible evidence to the contrary.

This has fuelled speculation that the Shenhua brand may be a liability in terms of public opinion. Shenhua Watermark is owned by the State-owned Shenhua Coal group, the largest producer of coal in China.

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New book reveals Koch empire in action

By Ben Jervey, Desmog Blog

Back in 1996, the president of the Charles Koch Foundation laid out a blueprint for the Koch network's goals of social transformation – a three-tiered integrated strategy to roll back government regulations, promote free market principles, and, in doing so, to protect the industries that turned the Koch brothers into billionaires.

More than two decades later, that blueprint is still being followed in a broad-scale effort to serve the Kochs' free-market libertarian ideology, to prop up the oil and gas industries that pad their fortunes, and to forestall any political action on climate change that they believe would threaten their bottom line.

And these investments are paying off. Charles Koch told a gathering of donors in 2018 that “We’ve made more progress in the last five years than I had in the previous fifty,” as Christopher Leonard reported in the just-published book *Kochland: The Secret History of Koch Industries and Corporate Power in America*.

Just as Steve Coll told the story of globalization through *ExxonMobil* and Andrew Ross Sorkin told the story of Wall Street excess through *Too Big to Fail*, Christopher Leonard's *Kochland* uses the extraordinary account of how one of the biggest private companies in the world grew to be that big to tell the story of modern corporate America.

Story of modern corporate America

The annual revenue of Koch Industries is bigger than that of Goldman

Sachs, Facebook, and US Steel combined. Koch is everywhere: from the fertilizers that make our food to the chemicals that make our pipes to the synthetics that make our carpets and diapers to the Wall Street trading in all these commodities.

For five decades, CEO Charles Koch has kept Koch Industries quietly operating in deepest secrecy, with a view toward very, very long-term profits. He's a genius businessman: patient with earnings, able to learn from his mistakes, determined that his employees develop a reverence for free-market ruthlessness, and a master disrupter. These strategies have made him and his brother David together richer than Bill Gates.

True-life thriller

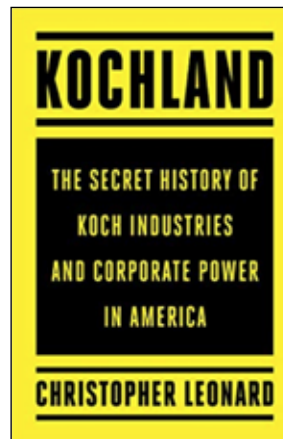
But there's another side to this story. If you want to understand how we killed the unions in this country, how we widened the income divide, stalled progress on climate change, and how

our corporations bought the influence industry, all you have to do is read this book.

Seven years in the making, *Kochland* reads like a true-life thriller, with larger-than-life characters driving the battles on every page. The book tells the ambitious tale of how one private company consolidated power over half a century – and how in doing so, it helped transform capitalism into something that feels deeply alienating to many Americans today.

• *Kochland* is available here:

https://www.amazon.com.au/s?k=kochland&ref=nb_sb_noss_1



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NT traditional owners bring message to Sydney: no consent to fracking

NT Traditional owners have travelled thousands of kilometres to bring a clear message to Sydney – Origin doesn't have consent to frack their land and open the largest new oil and gas reserve in Australia.

The Power of Country tour launched at Sydney Town Hall on Thursday (September 5) – bringing together Traditional Owners, First Nations people, Northern Territory communities,

and allies, all fighting Origin's plans to frack the Betaloo Basin.

The visit comes after Origin Energy kicked out Traditional Owners who attempted to attend the company's fancy fracking meeting for businesses in Tennant Creek in July. They had attempted to present a letter with more than 200 signatures in opposition to fracking, however Origin representatives refused to meet with them.

First Nations Justice Lead Campaigner Larissa Baldwin said Origin is desperately trying to squash the voices of those speaking out:

“Traditional Owners should have the final say about what happens to their land.

“That's why they are leading this fight and bringing it across the country.”

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Adani to get billions from Aussie tax-payers

After yet another three month extension, there is now just one month to go until Adani and Queensland Treasury sign off on a massive 900 million dollar 7-year low interest royalty capital subsidy for the Indian billionaire Adani Group – ensuring no royalty return from Carmichael into the Queensland community for a decade – IEEFA has a new briefing note out highlighting Adani is attracting many billions of dollars in subsidies from the Australian, Queensland and Indian governments over the coming three decades.

When Adani announced they had been unable to attract international capital and so had to self-finance the Carmichael coal mine and rail proposal in late 2018, Chief Executive Officer Lucas Dow said they did not 'require a cent of Australian taxpayer dollars'.

\$4.4 billion give-away

Despite this claim, the new IEEFA note *Billionaire Adani Being Subsidised for Carmichael Thermal Coal Mine – Adani's Thermal Coal Mine in Queensland Will Never Stand on Its Own Two Feet* estimates that the Adani Group is set to receive over \$4.4 billion of tax exemptions, deferrals and capital subsidies from Australian taxpayers to get its soon-to-be-obsolete Carmichael thermal coal mine up-and-running and operational for the next 30+ years.

Author Tim Buckley, Director of Energy Finance Studies IEEFA, says the Australian taxpayer is set to be drained of billions of dollars that could instead be used to assist people into secure long-term employment and in strengthening regional communities, while funding the inevitable transition to low emission energy alternatives.

"Actions speak louder than words. The Federal and Queensland governments have repeatedly stated the Adani mine is commercially viable and able to stand on its own two feet – while at the same time providing Adani with billions of taxpayer dollar in subsidies," says Mr Buckley.

"Adani says it's on track to receive a record high royalties deal from the Queensland government next month, despite Adani claiming it doesn't need the money, and despite the Queensland government stating it would not provide any public money to the project.

"This project is entirely contrary to

Capital and Operating Subsidies for the Carmichael Coal Mine

Timeframe	Subsidy offered to Adani	Value
7 years	A 7-year Royalty Holiday	\$900,000,000
30 years	Fuel Tax Credit Scheme	\$2,400,000,000
30 years	22 Billion Litres of Water Annually	\$19,000,000
Upfront	A 90km Private Road	\$100,000,000
End of mine life	Rehabilitation	\$1,000,000,000
30 years	Corporate Tax Shields (open-ended)	unquantifiable
	TOTAL	\$4,419,000,000

Australia's international commitments under the Paris Agreement.

"Our government's massive subsidies should instead be funnelled into projects that help prepare and transition Australia's regional communities, and those which are likely to generate corporate taxes for Australia.

"The current global technology-driven disruption of the thermal coal industry is inevitable, so the Australian government has a choice to make it a planned transition, not the chaotic one that's occurring and which involves billions in taxpayer dollars for obsolete thermal coal mines.

Mine unviable without subsidies

"IEEFA has concluded the Adani Carmichael thermal coal mine project would not open nor survive without billions of dollars in ongoing subsidies being provided by the Queensland and Australian governments over the coming three decades."

As with most resource extraction arrangements, Adani must commit to pay a royalty to the state upon extracting Queensland's thermal coal resources based on a percentage of the price per tonne exported.

The Australia Institute's latest research shows that under existing arrangements, Adani is already effectively receiving 17% of their coal for free compared to royalty regimes in other states. Any deal agreed by 30 September will be additional to this existing subsidy.

"IEEFA recommends the 7-year royalty subsidy offer lapse," says Buckley.

"Why should Australian taxpayers give billions of their hard-earned dollars to

what is most likely already be a stranded asset?"

The briefing note review a number of subsidies and exemptions being awarded to Adani, including the 7-year royalty holiday, the fuel tax credit scheme, 22 billion litres of water annually, a 90km private road (Adani claims we are wrong on this one), final void rehabilitation exemptions, and corporate tax shields. (See table above.)

IEEFA acknowledges the Carmichael proposal is not alone in accessing Australia's diesel fuel subsidy.

"That Australian taxpayers have to shoulder high and increasing personal taxes at a time when the predominantly foreign-owned coal industry is continuing to access a billion-dollar annual diesel fuel subsidy is simply wrong," says Buckley.

Wean coal off diesel rebate

"IEEFA would contend the coal industry should be weaned off this diesel rebate. Fifty years of subsidies should be long enough for this sector to get to viability absent taxpayer support."

For global warming to have any chance of being limited to under 2°C, the International Energy Agency and global investors both state that thermal coal globally must enter a slow but terminal decline.

Thermal coal pipelines are shrinking in most of Australia's key export markets.

While India still offers great hope to thermal coal lobbyists, the Indian government's Central Electricity Authority's (CEA) energy plan has already modelled a one-third reduction in Indian coal imports by 2024, shifting to a

Subsidies needed to prop up Adani's mine

• Continued from p4

more balanced reliance on domestic renewables and domestic sourced coal-fired power generation.

"Relying on India to pick up the slack when renewable energy tariffs there are already half the price of new import coal-fired power proposals is simply illogical," says Buckley.

"The Indian government has identified the need to reduce its exposure to imported fossil fuels including oil, coal and gas, setting the stage for a massive transformation across the country.

"India has pivoted from building massive thermal power capacity to building lower cost renewable energy capacity at an unexpected rate. It has also established world-leading ambitions to reach 523 gigawatts of renewable energy installs by 2030, supported by 34 gigawatts of battery installs for grid firming."

Renewables beat coal on cost

"Australia's thermal coal export markets are leaping ahead of Australia in their direct embracing of the renewable energy race, driven by the need to address growing air pollution issues, rising water scarcity constraints, the energy security needs of increasing domestic reliance, and the straight-out economic merits of least cost renewables.

"It's time for Australia to take a lesson from our neighbours.

"Low emission industries of the future are where the Australian government should be investing taxpayer money, not in the Carmichael mine – an expensive, obsolete thermal coal mine operation with financials requiring ongoing taxpayer handouts."

• Read the briefing note:

Billionaire Adani Being Subsidised for Carmichael Thermal Coal Mine – Adani's Thermal Coal Mine in Queensland Will Never Stand on Its Own Two Feet

<http://ieefa.org/ieefa-australia-australian-taxpayers-funding-subsidies-worth-billions-for-adanis-carmichael-thermal-coal-mine/>

FFB

Greenpeace targets Angus Taylor



Greenpeace has launched a Break Free Actions Squad campaign targeting Australia's Minister for Energy and Emissions Reductions, Angus Taylor.

They say Taylor's track record makes a mockery of his job title:

- On his watch, Australia's greenhouse gas pollution levels have gone up as we slide ever further from our Paris targets.
- He has tried to mislead the public about those rising emissions levels, whilst spreading fear and misinformation about renewable energy.
- He is propping up Australia's ageing and polluting coal power stations with plans to funnel yet more taxpayer dollars into a climate-wrecking coal slush fund.

"Angus Taylor and his policies are an affront to all Australians who want to see a real emission reduction policy to stop damage to our climate," Greenpeace said.

"That's why this week across Australia the Break Free Actions Squad are get-

ting out and about in their local communities to ring the alarm: to name and shame Taylor, and to call our crisis for what it is: a climate emergency.

"Taylor has confirmed the Federal Government is considering using public money to fund 10 coal projects, and repeatedly refused to rule out using public money to replace or extend the life of the ageing Liddell coal power station, slated for closure in 2023.

"We know that burning coal for power is Australia's number one contributor to global warming. It intensifies dangerous and extreme weather events like floods, heat-waves, droughts, bushfires and cyclones."

Greenpeace aims to expose the government's lies and generate enough backlash to the energy minister and the government with two options:

1. **Make a real climate policy OR**
2. **Admit they don't have one**

• A petition supporting the campaign with over 10,000 signatures is here:

<https://act.greenpeace.org.au/breakfree/angustaylor>

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#STOPADANI
FRONTLINE WEBINAR
 THURS 12TH SEP 6:30- 7:30PM
 RSVP FOR LINK

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/webinar-stopadani-the-frontline-fight-tickets-71329180499>

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Inside the news

Nobody is more impacted by the **mining industry** than our **Aboriginal** peoples, whose lands all over the country are besieged by blasting, drilling and destruction.

We see this week three Aboriginal groups – the **Wangan & Jagalingou** Family Council in Queensland, the **Gomeri** Traditional Custodians in New South Wales and numerous Traditional Owners from the Northern Territory, all battling to preserve their country.

People like the **Adnyamathanya** in South Australia face multiple mining projects, such as those at Leigh Creek and Lake Torrens.

This week is critical for the Wangan & Jagalingou (W&J), whose **native title has been extinguished** by the Queensland government and their land handed over, freehold, to Adani. Just as they are accustomed to doing in India, **Adani** now wants the government to **send in police** and evict the W&J from their camp (p8).

It doesn't get much uglier than this and explains why miners struggle to get a social licence. The industry has been warned of future **conflict with communities** and potentially costly lawsuits in a report from **Deloitte** (p13).

Meanwhile, **Queensland Resources** boss **Ian Macfarlane** has cooked up a new **Resources Media Club** with **Nationals** president **Larry Anthony**, who helps oversee consulting outfit SAS Group. They also have a hand in running the Rural Press Club, and want to **"straighten up the news,"** as Macfarlane puts it. They kicked off with a lavish lunch for journos in Brisbane on September 3. **FFB** assumes its **invitation** must have **got lost** in the mail.

At this nosh-up, as they have elsewhere, Macfarlane and resources minister **Matt Canavan** threw out plenty of red meat, calling for a **boycott** of companies backing off work for Adani.

The **AFR** noted (p17) that the threats could be construed as companies acting collectively or individually to foster **anti-competitive behaviours** – breaching either anti-cartel or anti-concerted practice rules.



Fossil Fool Bulletin

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In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 30,700 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.dailymercury.com.au/news/indias-coal-demand-to-boost-mackay-development-ada/3818296/>

India's coal demand to boost Mackay development: Adani boss

Melanie Whiting, Daily Mercury, 30/08/2019

Mackay development would skyrocket if future coal mines in the Galilee Basin tapped into the golden opportunity being presented by India's demand for coal.

That was the message Adani Mining chief executive Lucas Dow delivered to Mackay business and community leaders at Thursday's Mackay-Isaac-Whitsunday Regional Projects forum held at the MECC.

"We've seen the real benefit of the contribution that the Bowen Basin makes to Mackay. Clearly if we were to open up and replicate an equivalent-type basin in the Galilee, you could see those impacts flowing into Mackay ... We'd see a massive increase in terms of development for Mackay, Rockhampton and Townsville more broadly."

Resources Minister Matt Canavan said three or four new Adani-sized coal mines in the Galilee Basin could be needed to supply growing demand from India.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-31/adani-native-title-anger-prompts-police-inquiries-protest-clash/11466778>

Adani native title anger prompts police query about 'sensitivities' over removing protesters

Josh Robertson, ABC, 31/08/2019

Queensland police have appealed for help with Indigenous "cultural sensitivities" in case the mining firm Adani requests traditional owners be removed from its Galilee Basin project site.

It comes after the State Government quietly extinguished native title rights over 1,385 hectares of the mine site on Thursday.

A week ago, W&J man Adrian Burragubba, who the mining giant has bankrupted over costs from legal challenges, set up a camp with others on state land due to be handed over to Adani today.



Teacher and farmer Will Douglas, 63, from Moruya in NSW, locked himself to the drill rig on Adani's rail corridor, saying immediate action is needed in the face of climate emergency. He said "I love this country, and it is under threat from the ignorance and ineptitude of the Australian government in dealing with this global crisis. As a biologist and farmer, I fear the disastrous effects of climate change. For too long the Australian government has been ignoring the messages of scientific experts. Now we the Australian people are the message, taking direct action to stop climate disaster." Photo: Frontline Action on Coal

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/aug/31/queensland-extinguishes-native-title-over-indigenous-land-to-make-way-for-adani-coalmine>

Queensland extinguishes native title over Indigenous land to make way for Adani coalmine

Ben Doherty, Guardian, 31/08/2019

The Queensland government has extinguished native title over 1,385 hectares of Wangan and Jagalingou country for the proposed Adani coalmine in Queensland's Galilee Basin – without any public announcement of the decision.

The decision could see Wangan & Jagalingou protesters forcibly removed by police from their traditional lands, including lands used for ceremonies.

Burragubba and a group of supporters set up camp on the land ahead of its legal transfer to Adani. He said they will refuse to leave.

<https://www.thesaturdaypaper.com.au/news/environment/2019/08/31/part-one-inside-the-adani-blockade/15671736008677>

Inside the Adani blockade

Anna Krien, Saturday Paper, 31/08/2019

Camp Binbee is on Birri country, 45 minutes inland from Bowen. It is hot and dry. Across the property, paths have been mowed through the tall yellow grass, making small clearings for campsites in among the skinny ironbarks, spindly ghost gums and the odd lemon bottlebrush. Small domed tents rise out of the long grass, a washing line pegged between trees. The sky is vast and faded blue. It is quiet and peaceful here, but down at the house, there is a hum of activity as the 18-month blockade against Adani's Carmichael coalmine begins to grow in numbers.

Camp Binbee is four hours' drive from Adani's mine site. The blockade is strategically placed so actions can be directed all along the pipeline – from port, to rail, to mine.

[Queensland Premier Annastacia] Palaszczuk's likely reality for proposing

heightened police powers is that the premier can see what is coming down the line.

Queensland has become a flashpoint in the climate struggle.

Security is strict at camp meetings. No phones are allowed – not even if they are turned off.

A drone is regularly flown over the site, presumably by police, while a contingent of activists here have come from another blockade down south at Leard State Forest and Maules Creek in New South Wales, which was infiltrated by several spies.

• *Next week: part two.*

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/mining-subcontractors-may-be-blacklisted-if-they-capitulate-to-protesters/news-story/60c191fa2c248b53e385fafaef23671>

Mining subcontractors may be blacklisted if they capitulate to protesters

Renee Viellaris, Courier-Mail, 03/09/2019

Fed-up mining companies have flagged black-listing “piss weak” suppliers who buckle to noisy activists in a bid to ensure their projects are not held to ransom.

A new business paradigm – whereby miners reward companies who refuse to bend to protesters – is now looming in Queensland after engineering firm Aurecon cut longstanding ties with coalminer Adani because of pressure from activists.

It comes as Resources Minister Matt Canavan today will tell a resources lunch in Brisbane that anti-coal protests are “illegal” and “immoral” and are the “tantrums from teenagers”.

Queensland Resources Council boss Ian Macfarlane said, “Engineering and procurement companies who are happy to take the resources industry’s money in the good times and then succumb to pressure being applied by illegal behaviour of green activists will be viewed as less reliable.”

<https://www.queenslandcountrylife.com.au/story/6365334/adani-has-office-plans-for-rockhampton/>

Adani has office plans for Rockhampton

Alan Welburn, Qld Country Life, 03/09/2019

Rockhampton Regional Council mayor Margaret Strelow and state government MP Barry O’Rourke have championed the city’s credentials as an employment centre for job seekers keen to work at Adani’s Carmichael Mine in the Galilee Basin.

Cr Strelow said it was a “very positive step forward” and federal Member for Capricornia Michelle Landry hopes the planned business centre does not become a focal point for demonstrators.

Adani CEO Lucas Dow said the centre would have several purposes, including training, recruitment interviews and staff induction. Adani has confirmed 3750 central Queenslanders will be employed directly or indirectly during the mine construction phase. The company says it will not hire workers on 457 visas.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-09-04/endangered-finch-that-threatened-adani-bred-by-school-kids/11457168>

Endangered finch that threatened Adani project being successfully bred by school kids

Hannah Palmer & Nathalie Fernbach, ABC, 04/09/2019

The tiny, endangered bird that held up the Adani Carmichael coal mine is being successfully bred in captivity by primary school students.

“We’ve been very successful breeding 120 finches in the past six years,” Murphy said.

The school finch breeding program has the support of the Federal Black-throated Finch Recovery Team.

Team member Tony Grice said the breeding program was useful to raise awareness, but conservation of the bird relies on retaining its habitat.

Grice said it would be difficult for the birds to survive in the wild.

“What happens to a species when it’s been in captivity for a long time is its genetics changes,” he said.

“Those individuals that might be released don’t have the life experience for living in the wild and they don’t know the details of the habitat into which they’ve been released.

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/crime-court/frontline-action-on-coal-antiadani-activists-accused-of-assault/news-story/25c94a7cbe72ecacfb8eea4f0cad5054>

Frontline Action on Coal anti-Adani activists accused of assault

Keagan Elder, Townsville Bulletin, 04/09/2019

Anti-Adani protesters have been accused of assaulting a security guard during a lock-on protest today.

Police were called to the protest at the mining company’s rail construction site north of Clermont near the Gregory Development Road, Belyando, about 6.30am a police spokesman said.

The spokesman said investigations were ongoing and three people, including a 46-year-old man, 22-year-old woman and a 67-year-old man, were assisting police with inquiries.

In a statement, Frontline Action on Coal “categorically” denied the allegations and said the protesters would plead not guilty.

An Adani spokeswoman said the company would assist police with its investigation.



A black-throated finch in a school breeding program. Photo: Nathalie Fernbach/ABC

<https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/townsville/katter-chains-himself-to-shovel-to-protest-the-protesters/news-story/64694d231cfcaa708e1683234d7fa898>

Katter chains himself to shovel to 'protest the protesters'

Cas Garvey, Townsville Bulletin, 04/09/2019

Maverick MP Bob Katter has chained himself to a shovel to “protest the protesters” after anti-Adani protesters continue to cause havoc at Queensland businesses and mine sites.

Katter’s office said the move was “sending the message that while environmentalists chain themselves to stop work from happening, he’s chaining himself to his shovel to start work on the North-Queensland owned rail line”.

In a video filmed beside a rail line just outside Townsville today, Katter – dressed in jeans and singlet, Akubra and steel caps – told of his motives behind why he chained himself to a shovel with two protest signs reading “Lights for China India” and “Our Coal, Our Rail, Our Jobs.”

“We want North Queensland to own the rail line into the Galilee and not some foreign corporation,” Katter said.

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-30/acland-mine-expansion-job-losses-new-hope-stage-3/11464102>

New Hope threatens to sack 150 coal miners unless New Acland mine expansion approved

David Chen, ABC, 30/08/2019

New Hope Coal says it will begin sacking 150 workers from its southern Queensland mine if it does not receive approvals by the weekend for its expansion.

Mine general manager Dave O’Dwyer said they had run out of coal and would begin the redundancy process on Monday if there was no movement.

He said without approvals for the mine’s expansion, more than 300 jobs would be lost in the region.

Queensland Resources Council (QRC) chief executive Ian Macfarlane said there has been no explanation for delay.

But Paul King, from environmental group Oakey Coal Action Alliance, said:

“New Hope have no approval and the state cannot by law give it to them, until they have proven that their underground water take of 900 million litres per annum can be shown to be ecologically sustainable – that is a matter for them.”

“They should stop saying the state is in their way.

“The farmers, however, are in their way, and will stay in their way to protect their access to water to continue to produce the 10 million litres of milk and other agricultural products that come from the area.”

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/new-hope-coal-redundancy-talks-to-begin-today/news-story/a4d2193c344082d0f6573fad71db8a6>

New Hope Coal: Redundancy talks to begin today

Michael Madigan & Sarah Vogler, Courier-Mail, 02/09/2019

Redundancy discussions will begin at 6am Monday for up to 150 workers as New Hope Coal faces a thumbs down from the State Government on its planned expansion.

The failure to get a green light from the Government by midnight Saturday means the 12-year fight for mining and water approvals for New Acland Stage 3, just north-west of Toowoomba, is over.

The mine has been tied up in a series of legal battles with Oakey Coal Action Alliance, and Mining Minister Anthony Lynham yesterday said a pending Court of Appeal decision prevented a decision being made.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/opinion/editorial-government-needs-to-get-behind-mining-now/news-story/79d5e86873000d0fb7224bbdd2b94a6>

Editorial: Government needs to get behind mining now

Editor, Courier-Mail, 02/09/2019

That New Hope’s Acland Stage 3 expansion near Toowoomba has effectively waited 12 years for mining and water approvals is ridiculous.

That the State Government had not provide New Hope with an answer, in the affirmative or the negative, by the deadline of last Saturday is insulting.

The State Government can, and should, make a robust endorsement of the project to reflect its new found faith in the mining industry.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/coal-miners-climate-report-sets-precedent/news-story/1a0652ab8ad0bae3f86001c8f1cf8040>

Coal miner’s climate report sets precedent

Richard Gluyas, Aus, 02/09/2019

Whitehaven is likely to become the world’s first pure-play coal company to report against the Financial Stability Board’s global climate framework,

as Australian boardrooms respond to growing investor and regulatory pressure for disclosure on climate-related risks and opportunities.

A Whitehaven spokesman said its debut sustainability report – to be released in the next few weeks – would feature an entire section on climate change, including risk factors and mitigation measures.

<https://www.muswellbrookchronicle.com.au/story/6365055/bhp-welcomes-courts-decision/>

Muswellbrook Shire Council loses legal appeal but wins a costs order in Mt Arthur mine case

Muswellbrook Chronicle, 03/09/2019

The NSW Court of Appeal has upheld the approval of the Mt Arthur Coal Rehabilitation Strategy document.

Muswellbrook Shire Council took legal action against BHP and Mt Arthur owner Hunter Valley Energy Coal in 2017, after alleging the mine was not complying with a 2014 Planning Assessment Commission condition in regards to its rehab.

In a victory for the council, however, the court ordered the department to pay its own legal costs after finding there was “no reasonable basis to doubt that Muswellbrook Shire Council brought the proceedings in the public interest” and out of concern for the future visual impact of the site after coal mining ends.

Muswellbrook Shire Council said it respected the NSW Court of Appeal decision but “the community has been woefully let down by the NSW Department of Planning and the Planning Assessment Commission as a result of their shoddy drafting of an important document”.

“It is right and proper that the Court of Appeal should admonish the department for taking an active role in the litigation in support of BHP and impose cost consequences as a result of the department’s decision to do so,” it said.

“It is important to note that the NSW Government denies councils the ability to apply for merit reviews of mining outcomes they consider to have undesirable impacts on their communities.

“Councils are limited, therefore, to administrative appeals.

“The NSW Government, however, allows mining companies the benefit of full merit appeals against decisions about which they are not happy.

“As a result, councils continue to fight for their communities with one hand tied behind their backs.”

OIL & GAS LEAKS

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/lng-proves-its-worth-to-global-environment/news-story/9fc29cf7a72d4f123a1a31a7200937e3>

LNG proves its worth to global environment

Graham Lloyd, Aus, 31/08/2019

Australia’s greenhouse gas emissions for the March quarter fell by 0.4 per cent from the previous quarter but were up 0.6 per cent year on year because of a strong rise in exports of liquefied natural gas.

Releasing the figures yesterday, Environment Minister Angus Taylor highlighted the contribution gas exports were making to global emissions reductions.

Graham Lloyd goes on to parrot Taylor’s misleading claims on LNG as a transition fuel.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/png-government-gives-green-light-to-papua-lng-project-expansion-plan-approved-by-predecessor/news-story/6bd733f0cc313947a62a9126955e3df7>

PNG government gives green light to Papua LNG project expansion plan approved by predecessor

Perry Williams, Aus, 03/09/2019

The Papua New Guinea government will honour a \$13 billion LNG expansion deal signed with energy majors including Oil Search, with few substantive changes made to the accord originally sealed with deposed Prime Minister Peter O’Neill.

Attention will now quickly shift to the fate of forthcoming talks on the P’nyang section of the LNG expansion involving Exxon, Oil Search and Santos, which could face more onerous terms given the tougher rhetoric under the Marape government.

The Papua LNG accord is the first plank of a major expansion which proposes to double gas exports from the Pacific nation by 2024 through expanding the existing ExxonMobil-run PNG LNG plant where Oil Search holds a 29 per cent stake.

Two LNG trains with capacity of 5.4 million tonnes will be supplied through Papua LNG with a further 2.7 million tonnes train to come from the P’nyang-fed PNG LNG venture, roughly doubling the country’s output from 8.5 million tonnes a year to 17 million tonnes.

<https://www.themercury.com.au/news/national/empire-energy-sets-sights-on-beetaloo-and-mcarthur-basins/news-story/>

Empire Energy sets sights on Beetaloo and McArthur Basins

Gary Shipway, NT News, 04/09/2019

Empire Energy is the first junior company to have environmental management plans (EMP) in the Beetaloo and McArthur basins accepted for assessment by the Northern Territory Government since the lift of the fracking moratorium.

The company is one of dozens in Darwin for Resources Week, which features the South East Asia Australia Offshore and Onshore Conference (SEAAOC), Mining the Territory and, for the first time, the Environmental Management and Logistics Forum.

There are 850 delegates registered.

Empire’s operations in the NT cover 14.5 million acres and include potential of more than 13,000 petajoules of resource equivalent.

Empire has also submitted an EMP for the drilling of two wells through its subsidiary, Imperial Oil & Gas.

<https://www.katherinetimes.com.au/story/6367067/after-the-truck-blockades-what-will-rebel-anti-frackers-try-next/>

After truck blockades, what will rebel anti-frackers try next

Chris McLennan, Katherine Times, 04/09/2019

Katherine’s rebel anti-frackers are considering their next move after the successful blockade of a drill truck.

A pro-mining lobby today warned that people could be hurt if similar stunts were tried after the gloves came off after years of peaceful protest.

Other protesters from Tennant Creek to Elliot also took part in a week-long strategy of slowing down the drilling trucks.

Energy companies are trucking in drill equipment from across the nation in a rush to start exploratory drilling, and fracking, to beat the wet season.

Local vet Dr Sam Phelan used her vehicle along with five others to help corral a truck at the weighbridge outside Katherine for almost two hours.

“We don’t belong to any group ... We are parents and kids from concerned families.

“Using cars as a barrier seemed to us safe enough but might be annoying to an industry where time is money.

“There’s a lot of trucks with drill equipment passing through Katherine at the moment.”

Protect Country Alliance spokeswoman Lauren Mellor said, “It is hardly surprising individual community members, like those from Katherine, are banding together to do what they can to peacefully prevent the dirty, polluting fracking industry from damaging land and water.”

LEIGH CK STINK

<https://smallcaps.com.au/chinese-australian-authorities-validate-leigh-creek-energy-namesake-asset/>

Chinese and Australian authorities validate Leigh Creek Energy’s namesake asset

Lorna Nicholas, Smallcaps, 30/08/2019

Leigh Creek Energy has received endorsement from Chinese and Australian government agencies for its namesake project, which is one of the



Rebel anti-frackers used their cars to blockade a drill truck at a weighbridge near Katherine, NT, for two hours. Frackers are rushing to start drilling in the NT before the wet season. Photo: Contributed

largest undeveloped and uncontracted gas reserves on Australia's east coast.

Leigh Creek is developing an in-situ gasification operation in South Australia that effectively converts coal to its gaseous form.

In recognition of the project's potential, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has sought Leigh Creek's input for its inquiry into gas supply and transportation services to improve the transparency of Australia's gas market.

Meanwhile, in China, Leigh Creek has been invited by the country's Department of the National Reform and Development Commission to participate on a report on China's energy strategy and emerging industries.

Earlier this month, Leigh Creek said it had concluded consultations with South Australian authorities and had developed a clear approval pathway to commercialising the project, which is the company's number one priority.

HYDROGEN HYPE

<https://www.afr.com/policy/energy-and-climate/federal-funding-fuels-hydrogen-push-20190902-p52n7m>

Federal funding fuels hydrogen push

Luke Housego, AFR, 03/09/2019

The Australian Renewable Energy Agency announced on Tuesday it would provide funding to commercialise a world-first technology.

ARENA has committed to a \$9.4 million investment to support Hazer, a Western Australia-based company with plans to build a demonstration plant that will produce 100 tonnes of hydrogen per year using a biogas by-product from a sewage treatment plant.

The announcement follows a commitment from ARENA late last month to part-fund a hydrogen production pilot plant to be built by gas and equipment supplier BOC.

The \$3.1 million facility near Brisbane will produce 30,000 kilograms of hydrogen gas per year, which will be used to supply hydrogen vehicles to be trialled by the Queensland government.

Originally developed by the University of Western Australia, Hazer's novel process uses iron ore as a catalyst to separate the hydrogen and carbon molecules from natural gas. The carbon is extracted as graphite, making a secondary saleable product from the process.

The second recent ARENA-funded project, BOC's pilot plant, will be built at Bulwer Island facility and will use the company's existing natural gas infrastructure, adding a refuelling station for hydrogen vehicles.

Hyundai and Toyota will both supply vehicles to the state government for the trial, with the BOC hydrogen project to supply the fuel for the cars.

NUKE MADNESS

<https://www.afr.com/companies/energy/left-support-for-nsw-nuclear-power-industry-20190830-p52mji>

Left support for NSW nuclear power industry

Aaron Patrick, AFR, 02/09/2019

Left-wing economist John Quiggin has urged the NSW Parliament to legalise nuclear power, making the University of Queensland academic the most prominent environmentalist to support the controversial energy source.

Professor Quiggin told a NSW parliamentary inquiry into uranium mining and nuclear power that the ban should be lifted simultaneously with the introduction of a price charged for emitting Greenhouse gases.

"Nuclear power is not viable in the absence of a carbon price," he said.

The Minerals Council of Australia, a lobby group, successfully pushed for a federal parliamentary inquiry into nuclear.

The NSW inquiry is the result of a private members bill introduced by state One Nation leader Mark Latham.

The biggest impediment to development of the industry is opposition from the Labor and Greens parties, environmental groups and left-wing think tanks such as The Australia Institute.

In Victoria a parliamentary inquiry began two weeks ago at the request of a Liberal Democrat MP, David Limbrick.

<https://www.afr.com/companies/energy/a-path-from-the-left-to-nuclear-power-20190830-p52mgo>

A path from the left to nuclear power

Aaron Patrick, AFR, 02/09/2019

When an advanced industrial economy is unable to guarantee electricity will flow to factories, hospitals, and homes during the heat waves that appear to be becoming more common on this dry continent – or reasonably priced power on other days – society will, at some point, conclude that energy pol-

icy has failed and demand a solution from their political institutions.

John Quiggin, a prolific economist and intellectual leader of the left, has proposed a grand compact – one that could finally end the climate wars, prevent what could conceivably become an energy crisis, support a struggling manufacturing sector and provide future generations with clean, reliable power in perpetuity.

The University of Queensland professor proposes ending the ban on nuclear power in return for the immediate introduction of a carbon price.

Quiggin would initially set a \$25 per tonne price for the right to emit carbon dioxide, which would rise to \$50 in 2035.

Quiggin must know that his plan would be devastating for coal. A \$50 carbon price would kill off those coal power stations that were still operating, according to Tim Buckley, a prominent anti-coal financial analyst.

In the emotive world of nuclear politics, Quiggin's call is treason. Others on the left have flirted with nuclear, including climate change activists Tim Flannery and Simon Holmes a Court, and economist Andrew Charlton. None have been prepared to take a central role in the current debate.

In Quiggin's case, the Whitlamite academic has felt the need to bolster his credibility with the anti-nuclear community by telling them through the *Guardian* that the political impediments are too great to overcome – without mentioning his underlying support for the technology.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/sep/05/labor-pressure-coalition-to-rule-out-nuclear-fantasies-or-name-sites-for-reactors>

Labor pressures Coalition to rule out nuclear 'fantasies' or name sites for reactors

Sarah Martin & Amy Remeikis, Guardian, 05/09/2019

Labor will pressure the government over its "flirtation" with nuclear energy by releasing parliamentary library research that shows almost 150 sites across the country have been proposed for reactors or dumps in the past 50 years.

Labor's shadow energy minister, Mark Butler, said: "Instead of indulging the policy fantasies of his restive backbench, Mr Morrison should reject the nuclear option or be upfront with Australians about exactly where he wants to build nuclear reactors. Mr Morrison

should forget nuclear energy and focus instead on practical ways of dealing with his government's energy crisis."

Labor MPs are expected to follow up the release of the information with localised campaigns highlighting the potential threat of nuclear facilities in the listed locations.

Butler said that almost all of the proposed reactor sites since 1968 were near residential communities, noting that some locations – such as Townsville – had been proposed twice.

Ziggy Switkowski, who headed a 2006 review of nuclear power for the Howard government, said that it would take about a decade before it was clear whether small nuclear reactors were suitable for Australia, and about 15 years to bring a plant online if a decision was made to build one.

<https://www.afr.com/companies/energy/canavan-cold-on-the-push-for-nuclear-power-20190903-p52nir>

Canavan cold on the push for nuclear power

Mark Ludlow, AFR, 03/09/2019

Resources Minister Matt Canavan has hosed down the prospect of nuclear power helping solve the nation's energy woes, saying the disposal of low-level radioactive waste was already a problem.

Senator Canavan said he was the minister responsible for trying to find a home for low and intermediate-level radioactive waste from the sole nuclear reactor at Lucas Heights in Sydney's south-west that is used for the production of nuclear medicine.

"We've been trying to find a home for 40 years for that waste. It's difficult because of the concerns about managing that waste. I completely understand that," he said before a speech to the Queensland Resources Media Club in Brisbane.

"Obviously, if we can't find a long-term solution for that level of waste it's pretty hard to fathom that we could go beyond that for the production of nuclear energy that does produce a larger amount and more waste of a higher category to manage."



MINING MAYHEM

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/companies/miners-face-higher-bar-to-maintain-social-licence-report-warns-20190901-p52mu2.html>

Miners face higher bar to maintain 'social licence', report warns

Nick Toscano, SMH, 02/09/2019

Mining companies face the loss of their social licence, conflict with communities and potentially costly lawsuits if they are unable to demonstrate they are going beyond their required stakeholder and environmental obligations, warns a report from Deloitte.

"In many countries, the true economic contribution of mining is being questioned, said the report.

Deloitte's risk advisory principal Leeora Black said the impact of mining was becoming an increasing cause of concern as miners are forced to mine in more remote areas of the world and drill deeper into minerals deposits to obtain the earth's resources. There was also a heightened focus from the investment community on sustainability, responsibility and climate change, which were becoming mainstream concerns across the industry.

CLIMATE CRISIS

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/australia-s-greenhouse-emissions-set-new-seven-year-highs-on-gas-boom-20190830-p52mbe.html>

Australia's greenhouse emissions set new seven-year highs on gas boom

Peter Hannam, SMH, 30/08/2019

Australia's greenhouse gas emissions have risen to the highest annual rate since the 2012-13 financial year, driven higher by surging gas production that has made the country the world's biggest exporter of the fossil fuel.

Emissions related to LNG exports jumped 18.8 per cent, eclipsing a drop from the electricity sector as renewable energy's 28 per cent leap curbed coal- and gas-fired power output. Carbon pollution from electricity generation eased 2.1 per cent from a year earlier.

Transport also continued to grow as a source of greenhouse gases, rising 1.3 per cent as diesel use rose.

Emissions from the gas sector contribute to the overall total on several counts. Fugitive emissions, for instance, rose 5.9 per cent in the year to March 2019 to 59.6 million tonnes of CO₂-e, with gas a major source.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/aug/30/australia-carbon-emissions-rise-again-greenhouse-gas-lng>

Australia's carbon emissions rise again, largely thanks to LNG industry

Adam Morton, Guardian, 30/08/2019

Australia's greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise despite the Morrison government claiming it is taking "sensible, responsible action" to address the climate crisis, the latest official data shows.

Total national emissions have increased each year since the government abolished a national carbon price in 2014.

The evidence that is available suggests gas is often not replacing coal. In Japan, Australia's biggest LNG market, gas is increasingly competed with zero-emissions nuclear and renewable power.

Matt Rose, an economist with the Australian Conservation Foundation, said burning coal and gas was the main driver of the climate crisis and Australia was now the number one exporter of both.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-30/great-barrier-reef-report-long-term-outlook-downgraded-very-poor/11464294>

Great Barrier Reef long-term outlook 'very poor', Federal Government reef report finds

Penny Timms & Laura Gartry, ABC, 31/08/2019

For the first time, the long-term outlook for the Great Barrier Reef has been downgraded to "very poor" by the Federal Government, with the impacts of climate change deteriorating its overall health.

The evidence-based report written by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) using more than 1,000 scientific reports, was described by its chairman Ian Poiner as "sobering findings".

The five-yearly report said climate change is escalating and is the most significant threat to the Great Barrier Reef's long-term survival.

The Federal Government said 64,000 Australians depend on the \$6.4 billion reef economy.

The research notes the deterioration will have social and economic implications for regional communities, because commercial marine tourism and fishing depend heavily on the reef.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/sep/03/australian-medical-association-declares-climate-change-a-health-emergency>

Australian Medical Association declares climate change a health emergency

Katharine Murphy, *Guardian*, 03/09/2019

The Australian Medical Association has formally declared climate change a health emergency, pointing to “clear scientific evidence indicating severe impacts for our patients and communities now and into the future”.

The World Health Organisation has recognised since 2015 that climate change is the greatest threat to global health in the 21st century, and argued the scientific evidence for that assessment is “overwhelming”.

The AMA is calling on the Morrison government to promote an active transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy; adopt mitigation targets within an Australian carbon budget; promote the health benefits of addressing climate change; and develop a national strategy for health and climate change.

AMA president, Tony Bartone, said: “Climate change will cause higher mortality and morbidity from heat stress,” the AMA president says. “Climate change will cause injury and mortality from increasingly severe weather events ... increases in the transmission of vector-borne diseases ... food insecurity resulting from declines in agricultural outputs ... [and] a higher incidence of mental ill-health.

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/2019/09/03/climate-change-death/>

Here's how climate change is already killing us

New Daily, 03/09/2019

Climate change is already killing us and will continue to cause more deaths in Australia if we don't mitigate the growing emergency, the Australian Medical Association has warned.

Australia's top medical body on Tuesday declared climate change a health emergency, warning that it will have deadly consequences in Australia and the Pacific.

When asked if climate change was already causing deaths in Australia, association member Dr Chris Moy said: “Yes, there is evidence of that.”

“There is climate change causing severe health effects. Heat stress causes severe symptoms, but also death. There is evidence of death from increasing temperatures.”



Global heating made Hurricane Dorian bigger, wetter – and more deadly, according to climate scientists. Graphic: *wistv.com*

Not only is it already having an impact on the health of Australians, but also the nation's economic productivity, he said.

“Heat stress, the impact of heat on the workforce is estimated at a \$6.2 billion loss on the economy. There's already estimated productivity loss, but also greater mortality in the eastern capitals,” he said.

Dr Liz Hanna, chairwoman of the World Federation of Public Health Associations' environmental health working group, said it's hard to say how many people have already died as a result of climate change in Australia, but the risk becomes clear with each heat wave.

“When we have a heatwave, those [death] figures go up astronomically and they're recorded as excess deaths. We know it's because of the heat.”

“The big one going on at the moment is the depression that happens in drought, floods and storms,” she said.

“Particularly the droughts because they go on and on and it breaks farmers hearts to watch the trees dry, the land dry, the stock die.

“They're in debt and that's very depressing, and of course then the entire communities feel the pain. It's a climate emergency, it is a health emergency.”

Dr Moy said the backlash to the AMA's announcement from some climate change deniers had been intense, but that at the end of the day the association needed to act in the interests of the public.

“We're basing it on science and the health effects. We're trying to stay in our area. The science says it will have serious health effects. We're just ask-

ing the government and other organisations to put their minds to fixing it.”

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/sep/04/climate-crisis-hurricane-dorian-floods-bahamas>

Global heating made Hurricane Dorian bigger, wetter – and more deadly

Michael Mann & Andrew E Dessler, *Guardian*, 04/09/2019

While the science has yet to come in on the specifics of just how much worse climate change made Dorian, we already know enough to say that warming worsened the damage.

On a basic physics level, we know that warm waters fuel hurricanes, and Dorian was strengthened by waters well above average temperatures. The fact that climate change has heated up our oceans means Dorian was stronger than it would have been had we not spent the past 150 years dumping carbon pollution into the atmosphere. Sea surface temperatures were more than 1C warmer in the region where Dorian formed and strengthened than they were before we started burning fossil fuels.

We know that the warmer air gets, the more moisture it can hold – and then turn into flooding rains in a storm like this.

Although Dorian's 220mph gusts were incredibly dangerous (and sped up thanks to climate change), it was the 20-plus feet of storm surge and torrential rains that were the most destructive.

Another way that Dorian's damage was worsened is that all that warm water allowed for the storm to ramp up quickly, undergoing rapid intensification as it exploded from a moderate category 2 to extreme category 5 over just two days.

So while climate change is making it so hurricanes can spin up quickly, it may also be slowing down how fast hurricanes move.

Had Dorian been moving at a regular pace of a few miles an hour, the devastation in the Bahamas would have been much less severe. But because it sat in place, basically stationary, the damage has been catastrophic

• *Michael Mann is distinguished professor of atmospheric science at Pennsylvania State University. Andrew Dessler is a professor of atmospheric sciences and holder of the Reta A Haynes chair of geosciences at Texas A&M University.*

FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/mayor-adrian-schrinner-says-environmental-protesters-worse-than-cfmeu/news-story/41fbb47e73ac97c6e0d605b9a3ae8416>

Mayor Adrian Schrinner says environmental protesters 'worse than CFMEU'

Thomas Morgan & Caitlin Smith, Courier-Mail, 28/08/2019

A Brisbane-based MP has slammed Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk and her police minister, accusing them of peddling lies and returning Queensland to the Joh era.

Standing out the front of State Parliament after a protest through the CBD, Maiwar MP Michael Berkman also slammed Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner's comments this morning branding protesters as extremists as 'disgusting'.

"It's absolute garbage, we are regular protesters," Berkman said. "I think there's a real extremism creeping into the government and opposition on this."

Meanwhile, Greens councillor for West End Jonathon Sri, accused the political class of being "white collar criminals" and "the real extremists".

Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner described environmental protesters as 'extremists' who held 'fringe views'.

"Even the CMFEU takes a more reasonable approach than these extremists," Cr Schrinner said.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-30/emissions-drop-but-year-long-trend-on-the-rise/11464816>

Australia's carbon emissions continue to rise despite Government assurances about climate change policy

Claudia Long, ABC, 30/08/2019

New figures show Australia's carbon emissions are continuing to climb de-

spite Federal Government assurances it has the policy framework to address climate change.

In the year to March, emissions rose 0.6 per cent on the previous year, according to data released by Energy and Emissions Reduction Minister Angus Taylor.

There was, however, a drop in greenhouse gas emissions of 0.4 per cent recorded in the March quarter.

The Opposition and environment groups have seized on the data and accused the Government of failing to respond to a changing climate.

Mr Taylor rejected that and insisted the increase in emissions is due to growth in the LNG industry.

"In the last year there is a 0.6 per cent increase but it was more than accounted for by the very strong growth in LNG exports that are reducing global emissions," Mr Taylor said.

"We're seeing a reduction in emissions as a result of Australia's gas exports, but we have to wear a small increase as a result of that.

Head of research for the Climate Council Martin Rice disputed that claim, telling the ABC the results weren't good enough, despite the quarterly drop.

"The emissions figures clearly show the Federal Government is failing to act," Dr Rice said.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/taylor-gaslights-as-australia-hits-seven-year-high-on-emissions-66162/>

Taylor gaslights as Australia hits seven year high on emissions

Sophie Vorrath, Renew Economy, 30/08/2019

Australia's greenhouse gas status has worsened again, showing a 0.6 per cent rise in the March quarter to a seven year high of 538.9 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent, but the minister for energy and emissions reduction Angus Taylor still thinks it's a good news story.

Taylor, not one to be bogged down by data, insisted in a statement on Friday, and later in front of media, that the rise in emissions would indeed be a fall, were it not for Australia doing such a fantastic job extracting and exporting its natural gas.

Climate and energy program director at the TAI, Richie Merzian, says Australia's new seven-year high in national emissions – fuelled by the major increase in pollution and exports from the LNG industry – can in no way be

seen as any sort of positive, either for Australia, or for the global fight against climate change.

"According to the International Energy Agency, LNG is not a major transition fuel (away from coal) and is directly fuelling the climate crisis," he said.

"The WA government's new policy on emissions from major projects this week provides gas giants with a carte blanche to pollute and emission related to gas will continue to climb.

Mark Butler, Taylor's counterpart in the federal Labor opposition, is also having trouble drinking from Taylor's glass half full.

"Scott Morrison, Angus Taylor and the Coalition can't hide from the data – carbon emissions continue to rise under this government," he said.

<https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/environment/climate-change/the-right-side-of-history-labor-s-noble-climate-talk-lost-in-coal-smoke-20190714-p52711.html>

The right side of history? Labor's noble climate talk lost in coal smoke

David Shearman, Brisbane Times, 30/08/2019

Labor is all over the shop on climate change. This week its national president, Wayne Swan, is preaching that the party must stay on "the right side of history" and stick to ambitious carbon targets. He speaks out even as Labor's Queensland Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, expresses pride in coal exports.

And even as Swan says Labor must risk an unpopular policy, he defends Senator Penny Wong's response to pleas from Pacific Island nations: No, she told them, an ALP federal government would not ban new coal mines.

Talking down the impact of Australia's coal will not put Labor on the right side of history. Australia's domestic and export fossil fuel emissions now account for 5% of global emissions but current coal, gas and oil developments could increase that to 12 to 17% by 2030.

Our choice is stark. To continue, along with the US and a few other recalcitrant nations, makes not only the disaster of a 2-degree-warmer world certain but a catastrophic 4-degree-warmer planet likely.

In effect, Labor now supports the government on a policy that invites such a catastrophe.

• *Dr David Shearman is a founder of Doctors for the Environment Australia and emeritus Professor of Medicine at Adelaide University.*

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/aug/31/nsw-government-working-on-plan-b-to-replace-national-energy-guarantee>

NSW government working on plan B to replace national energy guarantee

Katharine Murphy, Guardian, 31/08/2019

The New South Wales government is working on a plan B to the national energy guarantee ahead of a meeting of federal and state energy ministers expected next month.

The Morrison government has been under pressure from some of the Liberal state governments, including NSW, to bring back the Neg. The policy was a casualty of the federal Liberal party's leadership eruption last August.

NSW is now working on an alternative 2030 strategy that will require policy support from Canberra.

Officials say the NSW plan would involve Canberra assisting a transition to lower emissions by underwriting generation, probably firmed renewables, to replace the Liddell power station, and also underwriting and de-risking new investments in transmission that have been highlighted as urgent by the Australian Energy Market Operator (Aemo).

It is possible NSW will ask Canberra for seed funding for some transmission projects, as well as a regulatory overhaul to make the investments more attractive to private proponents.

The federal energy minister, Angus Taylor, is yet to confirm when he will meet his state counterparts in the Coag energy council, but some stakeholders believe the meeting will be in Brisbane in September.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/firm-of-premiers-former-adviser-lobbying-labor-on-coal/news-story/cae746e64984b9a732dcdea8233c6762>

Firm of Premier's former adviser lobbying Labor on coal

Michael McKenna, Aus, 03/09/2019

The new lobbying firm of Anastacia Palaszczuk's recently resigned top political adviser has been appointed to help secure state government approval for a controversial coalmine expansion, triggering fresh integrity questions.

Start-up Anacta Strategies, half-owned by Ms Palaszczuk's former strategy chief Evan Moorhead, who left the Premier's office in May, is lobbying on behalf of the New Hope Group for state approval of its proposed \$900m expansion of the New Acland mine, west of Brisbane.

Moorhead, a long-time ALP state secretary, and Labor-aligned political consultant David Nelson, who worked on the 2017 state election campaign, set up the boutique lobbying firm just months ago and already represent companies with several of the most politically sensitive projects in Queensland. Moorhead was involved in high-level government deliberations over the proposed mine expansion and met with New Hope executives until quitting the Premier's office.

Under the Integrity Act, lobbyists in Queensland are banned from "carrying out lobbying activities related to their official dealings as a government representative" for two years after leaving their taxpayer-funded jobs. Moorhead said he had complied with the act, and that his colleague David Nelson handled the state government lobbying for New Hope, although both partners in the firm shared in the financial benefits of representing the mining company.

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/queensland/activists-not-the-biggest-problem-for-queensland-resources-qrc-chief-20190903-p52nj1.html>

Activists not the biggest problem for Queensland resources: QRC chief

Tony Moore, SMH, 03/09/2019

Activists are a problem but not "the problem" for Queensland's resources industries, the chief of the Queensland Resources Council says. Speaking at the inaugural Queensland Resources Media Club lunch in Brisbane on Tuesday, QRC chief executive Ian Macfarlane said the biggest problem for the industry was that its role was not explained well to the community.

"We need to be telling the people who need to know the facts around the industry that we do employ 316,000 people in Queensland, that we pay \$5.2 billion each year in royalties and that we do supply one in every five dollars [through the Queensland economy] and that we do provide one in every eight jobs in Queensland," he said.

Queensland senator Matt Canavan, a guest speaker at the lunch, highlighted the contribution of the state's resources industries to Australia's first current account surplus in more than 50 years.

Senator Canavan said "pampered and petulant" environmental activists - who he labelled "superglue protesters" - did not appear to understand the relationship with countries to which Australian coal provided electricity if coal exports stopped quickly.

He said protesters committed "a trifecta of tantrums", forcing coal to be bought from Australia's coal competitors.

Canavan released a new report showing Queensland and other regions of Australia had good reserves of critical minerals for renewable energy systems, electric vehicles, rechargeable batteries, consumer electronics, telecommunications and defence technologies.

"Today's report focuses on the supply and demand prospects for six different critical minerals - niobium, rare earths, cobalt, antimony, magnesium and tungsten," he said.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/blacklist-companies-that-buckle-to-green-activists-canavan-urges/news-story/53a94fad62bf91b5f909d4ce22a87280>

Blacklist companies that buckle to green activists, Canavan urges

Charlie Peel, Aus, 03/09/2019

Resources Minister Matt Canavan says companies that buckle to pressure from environmental activists should be "blacklisted" from the mining industry.

Speaking at the inaugural meeting of the Resources Media Club in Brisbane on Tuesday, Canavan said it was "immoral" for "rich Western" protesters to campaign against an industry that was helping bring millions of people in India and China out of poverty. His comments came after months of protests in Brisbane, in which activists have brought traffic to a standstill by supergluing themselves to the road and protesting on city streets.

"These post-election protests against coalmining are not just illegal, they are immoral.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/business/resources-minister-matt-canavan-preached-to-the-choir-at-sold-out-inaugural-lunch-of-the-resources-media-club-in-brisbane/news-story/ec3ced1345f4751aed68a22e94ec4f1b>

Resources Minister Matt Canavan preached to the choir at sold-out inaugural lunch of the Resources Media Club in Brisbane

Anthony Marx, Courier-Mail, 03/09/2019

Plenty of red meat: You might say he was preaching to the choir.

Resources Minister Matt Canavan fronted a sold-out inaugural lunch of the Resources Media Club in Brisbane on Tuesday and threw out plenty of red meat for the true believers such as Adani boss Lucas Dow and other senior industry figures in the room.

Attacking recent anti-coal protests as both “illegal” and “immoral,” Canavan argued that the end of mining would deprive millions in India and other developing nations of access to power and improved living standards.

But those in the 150-strong crowd at the Brisbane Club, including the likes of former premier Rob Borbidge, were not really Canavan’s target audience. Instead, it was mainstream media.

Earlier, Queensland Resources boss Ian Macfarlane told those in attendance that he cooked up the idea for the new Resources Media Club with Nationals president Larry Anthony, who helps oversee consulting outfit SAS Group. They also have a hand in running the Rural Press Club.

Macfarlane claimed the industry’s biggest problem was not the environmental activists blocking traffic or super gluing themselves to Brisbane streets.

Rather, he argued, it was that resources players all tend to talk just to each other instead of promoting the economic benefits of the sector to the wider community.

That would explain the table of local journos and Macfarlane’s efforts to “straighten up the news,” as he put it.

<https://www.afr.com/companies/mining/mining-lobby-warns-fair-weather-friends-20190903-p52nkc>

Mining lobby warns fair weather friends

Matthew Stevens, AFR, 04/09/2019

The QRC’s warning to the contracting world is a necessarily careful but firmly voiced response to an engineering contractor’s decision to surrender future alliance with the Adani Group’s Abbot Point coal terminal rather than endure further social media shaming over the port’s umbilical connection to the Carmichael coal project.

The contractor is called Aurecon and it had been doing engineering work at Abbot Point for the better part of 20 years under arrangements that pre-dated Adani’s ownership of the coal terminal.

Aurecon was described as both “weak as piss” and “a bunch of bed wetters” by the Federal Resources Minister Matt Canavan.

Tuesday’s statement of industry intent – which the QRC issued just ahead of a lunchtime address to its board by Minister Canavan – arrived less scatalogical but more threatening.

You back us or you don’t.



Matthew Stevens of the AFR says, “The future of mining is city-based remote operating centres where drills, trucks, trains, conveyor belts, crushers and loading plants are operated by digital brains informed by data and overseen by an ever-younger cohort of people whose skills have been honed on computer games.” In this photo of Rio Tinto’s Perth control room, we see people operating trucks 1,500km away and using gaming consoles to crush rocks. Photo: Rio Tinto

Now we circled back with the QRC to wonder whether it had acquired advice from competition lawyers on the delicate shaping of its clarion.

We were advised that there is no suggestion whatsoever of companies acting collectively or individually to foster anti-competitive behaviours. We were assured that the statement had nothing to do with retaliation.

As we understand it, the ACCC maintains a cautious watch on representative organisations for fear that white line fever might see them cross the line of either anti-cartel or anti-concerted practice rules.

One competition law expert we canvassed on Tuesday suggested that the QRC might be “sailing close to the wind” should, for example, Aurecon end up losing a material wealth of its resources sector contracts.

In the end, it is self-evidently fair enough that the QRC announce the risk of following the Aurecon lead and being a fair weather contracting friend to the resources sector. But it would be quite another for it to lead anything like the co-ordinated response that has been flagged by some Queensland media. Unions might be able to run industry “black lists” but commercial entities and their peak councils cannot.

Every step the resources sector takes in its embrace of automation, big data, analytics and artificial intelligence brings a compounding change in the underlying demographics of an industry historically characterised as antediluvian diggers.

The future of mining is city-based remote operating centres where drills,

trucks, trains, conveyor belts, crushers and loading plants are operated by digital brains informed by data and overseen by an ever-younger cohort of people whose skills have been honed on computer games.

These are not people wedded to the mining sector by intellectual legacy or, necessarily, by economic necessity. They are workers open to the empirics of climate change and potentially uncomfortable with the national coal paradox that sees us actively retreating from thermal generation while earning billions exporting coal to our rapidly evolving region.

Looked at through this lens, you can see why a business like Aurecon might want and need to engage in a bit of potentially risky virtue signalling at the expense of Adani.

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/the-economy/australia-to-hit-2020-large-scale-renewable-target-ahead-of-schedule-20190903-p52nj3.html>

Australia to hit 2020 large-scale renewables target ‘ahead of schedule’

Nick Toscano & Darren Gray, SMH, 03/09/2019

Unprecedented investment in large wind and solar power projects has put Australia on track to meet the federal government’s 2020 large-scale renewable energy target.

Clean Energy Regulator chair David Parker said that milestone was met ahead of schedule last week after the approval of four large wind and solar power stations, with a combined capacity of 406 megawatts.

The milestone came as former US secretary of state John Kerry implored policymakers to consider the jobs

being created by the transition to renewable energy, not just those lost as the fossil fuel industry declined.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/sep/03/john-kerry-says-we-cant-leave-climate-emergency-to-neanderthals-in-power>

John Kerry says we can't leave climate emergency to 'neanderthals' in power

Lisa Martin, Guardian, 03/09/2019

The former US secretary of state John Kerry has warned that humanity risks marching off a cliff unless governments take immediate action to fight the climate emergency.

In a keynote address to the Global Table food and agriculture conference, Kerry made veiled swipes at the Australian government's lack of climate and energy policy. He also weighed in on the heated debate about the Adani coalmine.

"We just can't sit on our asses and leave the political process to neanderthals who don't want to believe in the future," Kerry told the audience in Melbourne. "We have a dearth of leadership, but this will turn."

The former US Democratic presidential candidate said it was not a choice between taking action on the climate emergency and securing jobs and growth.

He said the transition to carbon emission-neutral economies would create better jobs and noted that the fastest growing employment opportunities in the US were for solar power and wind power turbine technicians.

Kerry said people arguing that the cost of action to fight the climate emergency was too great were not factoring in the massive storm and disaster damage bills. In 2017 the category five hurricanes Irma and Maria and the category four hurricane Harvey cost \$265bn to clean up.

"Wait and see what happens with Dorian," Kerry said.

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/companies/bhp-faces-investor-push-on-climate-lobbying-links-20190903-p52nfj.html>

BHP faces investor push on climate lobbying links

Nick Toscano & Clancy Yeats, SMH, 04/09/2019

Mining giant BHP is facing a fresh push from investors, including multibillion-dollar superannuation funds, to suspend its memberships of business groups accused by activists of undermining the Paris climate change goals.

In the resolution to be heard at BHP's upcoming annual general meeting, the group of shareholders praised the company's commitment to the goals of the Paris climate accord but warned that meeting the goals required them to suspend their membership of lobby groups such as the Minerals Council of Australia (MCA) and the Business Council of Australia (BCA).

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/sep/04/bhp-pressured-by-investors-to-suspend-membership-of-groups-including-minerals-council>

BHP pressured by investors to suspend membership of groups including Minerals Council

Adam Morton, Guardian, 04/09/2019

The mining giant BHP is facing increasing pressure from investors to suspend its membership of industry groups, including Australia's Minerals Council and Business Council, accused of lobbying efforts that are at odds with the goals of the Paris climate agreement.

BHP's chief executive, Andrew Mackenzie, declared that global warming was indisputable, said drastic action was needed and committed the company to ramping up efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. But the company has been criticised for continuing to fund groups including the Minerals Council and affiliated body Coal21, which is planning a multimillion-dollar advertising campaign that aims to "invoke national pride" in coal.

The shareholder resolution was filed by activist group the Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility.

The resolution [is expected to] be heard at BHP's annual general meetings in London on 17 October and Sydney on 7 November.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/bhp-resists-calls-to-quit-mining-lobby-groups/news-story/bdad47baa8141e0da46600ff6c640e5>

BHP resists calls to quit mining lobby groups

Nick Evans, Aus, 06/09/2019

BHP has stared down calls from shareholder activists for it to quit mining lobby groups targeted by climate change campaigners, saying membership has enabled it to "lead" in the global debate.

In a statement released to the market last night, BHP recommended shareholders vote against demands for it to withdraw from industry associations that advocate positions "inconsistent" with carbon reduction agreements.



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