



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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FFB 2:42 • 27 SEPTEMBER 2019

NSW beefs up penalties for protest

By Eve Sinton

The NSW Berejiklian government has introduced a Bill to Parliament that will significantly restrict people's civil liberties and their rights to peaceful protest.

Called the Right to Farm Bill, it massively increases the penalty for 'aggravated unlawful entry on inclosed lands' from \$5,500 to \$22,000, or three years imprisonment, or both.

"This is completely disproportionate response and a clear attempt to shut down dissent everywhere," Nature Conservation Council Chief Executive Chris Gambian said.

"This is an illiberal attack on our democratic right to protest and should not be allowed to become law.

"Peaceful protest is the cornerstone of a functioning democracy but hidden within this bill are sneaky new laws which directly threaten that right in NSW.

Goes way beyond vegan activists

"This goes way beyond just animal welfare activists on farms.

"These new laws could see farmers who oppose coal and gas projects, communities who protest logging, or even someone who stages a silent protest in a bank in Sydney, face up to three years jail and massive fines.

"It is outrageous that the government have tried to hide their intentions in an agricultural bill when this is a clear attempt from the government to shut down dissent everywhere.

"The provisions of the bill will capture anyone hindering any business anywhere where they are also trespassing.



The provisions of NSW's Right to Farm bill will capture anyone hindering any business anywhere where they are also trespassing. This includes farmers and knitting nannas protesting CSG, unions on worksites, communities protesting against logging in state forests, people staging a sit-in in corporate headquarters of a company, and more.

ABOVE: Knitting Nannas at a recent protest in the Braemar Forest, northern NSW.

Photo: David Lowe

"This includes farmers and knitting nannas protesting CSG, unions on worksites, communities protesting against logging in state forests, people staging a sit-in in corporate headquarters of a company, and more."

The North East Forest Alliance has slammed the bill as a covert attack on the rights to peacefully protest or even audit forestry operations on public lands.

"If this bill passes it will mean that if we do anything to hinder a logging operation on public lands we will be liable to fines of up to \$22,000 or imprisonment for three years," NEFA spokesperson Dailan Pugh said.

"In a time of climate emergency and an extinction crisis, this is an unprec-

edented and reprehensible assault on our civil rights, aimed at stopping any future actions to protect public lands.

"It is no coincidence that this coincides with protest actions in the Kalang headwaters near Bellingen and Braemar State Forest near Casino."

FFB could go to jail

If *Fossil Fool Bulletin* incites or induces people to enter a State Forest, to protest against coal seam gas for example, we will be liable for an \$11,000 fine or imprisonment for 12 months.

The bill was referred by the Animal Justice Party to an inquiry, which will report back on 21 October.



• P2: Methane study completed in WA

• P3: Minerals Council goes to war over Bylong

• P5: Morrison govt pushing coal in Asia

Families blockade Adani work camp

Responding to Frontline Action on Coal's red alert, families with young children have blocked access to Adani's work camp at the Carmichael Mine.

Young mother Kate Coxall said "we are already seeing the damaging consequences of climate breakdown, but it is our children who will be forced to deal with the worst effects in the decades to come. This is a moral failure of today's older generations, who have known for years of the damage we are causing."



Oceans hit by global heating

A new IPCC report on the impact of climate change on the world's oceans and cryosphere shows the urgency of the need to immediately and drastically reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions, says the Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS).

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report shows the oceans are absorbing more than 90% of excess heat caused by global warming and irreversible changes are already occurring.

Imogen Zethoven, AMCS director of strategy, said: "The report by the world's top climate and marine scientists makes it very clear that we are currently losing the race to protect marine ecosystems, but it's not too late to change direction if we act decisively now."

The report finds that by 2100, the ocean will absorb 2 to 4 times more heat even if global warming is limited to 2 degrees C. This will reduce the supply of oxygen and nutrients for marine life, having a deleterious effect on marine ecosystems.

The report also finds that marine heatwaves are becoming more frequent and severe, especially harming warm water corals, kelp forests and altering the distribution of marine life.

It finds the ocean is becoming more acidic due to the absorption of our carbon pollution and this is further harming our marine life.

Zethoven said "We need to take immediate and drastic action right now to reduce global emissions. Australia has an enormous amount at stake. We are responsible for the third largest marine estate in the world. We have more biodiversity in our oceans than any other country. We are responsible for one of the largest living organisms on the planet: the Great Barrier Reef.

"As an island continent with thriving economies and jobs dependent upon healthy seas, we have a great responsibility to look after our oceans. Our challenge is to act urgently and at scale to reduce our emissions.

Methane study of NT's Beetaloo completed

The CSIRO'S Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance (GISERA) has completed detailed studies in the Northern Territory's Beetaloo Sub-basin providing baseline data on background methane levels and groundwater characteristics.

The Beetaloo Sub-basin lies south-east of Katherine, spanning an area of about 30,000 square kilometres, and contains an estimated prospective resource of 178,200 petajoules (PJ) of shale gas.

These studies address community concerns about fugitive methane emissions and potential groundwater impacts by providing detailed information about methane and groundwater before development occurs.

These studies also fulfil recommendations 7.8 and 9.3 of the Northern Territory Government's 2018 final report of the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory for the Beetaloo Sub-basin.

GISERA Director Dr Damian Barrett said the science would inform appropriate policy and resource management decisions by the Northern Territory Government in relation to proposed shale gas exploration activities.

"The results of these baseline studies into background methane levels and groundwater characteristics are important because the Northern Territory is one of the few places in the world where these baselines can be developed before virtually any natural gas exploration or development has occurred," Dr Barrett said.

"In particular, the groundwater study has helped improve understanding of the recharge mechanism of the Cam-

brian Limestone Aquifer in onshore gas exploration permit areas."

CSIRO researchers travelled more than 15,000 kilometres over 29 days during the 2018 dry and fire seasons and the 2019 wet season using specially-equipped vehicles to measure various sources of methane emissions.

Average atmospheric methane concentration across the survey area ranged from 1.80 to 1.82 parts per million – equivalent to the background concentration of approximately 1.80 ppm expected in rural or natural areas.

Elevated readings from pipeline

Each survey observed isolated sources of slightly elevated methane concentrations in some areas; these were identified as grazing cattle, townships, fires, termites, wetlands and a small section of above-ground pipeline. No elevated methane concentrations were detected at petroleum wells and water bores.

Groundwater baseline measurements focussed on the regionally important Cambrian Limestone Aquifer and sampled groundwater from 25 water bores. Geochemical analysis revealed groundwater is suitable for irrigation and livestock purposes, and that concentrations of metals and hydrocarbon compounds are within Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (2017).

GISERA is a collaboration between CSIRO, Commonwealth and state governments and industry – including APLNG, QGC, Origin and Santos – established to undertake gas industry research.

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Minerals Council goes to war over Bylong

By Eve Sinton

The NSW Minerals Council's campaign to discredit a recent decision by the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) is an insult to farmers who are battling the drought, according to Lock the Gate Alliance.

The IPC recently ruled Kepco's controversial and destructive coal mine planned for the Bylong Vally, should be rejected due to unacceptable impacts on groundwater, strategic agricultural land, and the heritage values of the Bylong Valley.

The NSW Minerals Council has launched a public advertising campaign, with great fanfare in the Murdoch media, calling for urgent changes to the NSW planning system.

The campaign kicked off on September 23 with print, radio and online advertising claiming the planning system is broken, costing jobs and investment in regional NSW.

Planning minister pressured

According to the *Daily Telegraph*, the campaign is backed by a multimillion-dollar 'fighting fund' from industry and will be expanded throughout the state after initially targeting Sydney.

The *DT* took the campaign direct to NSW Planning Minister Rob Stokes, who was due to speak to an 'I, human in the climate emergency' event on October 31. The *Tele* offered to pay his airfare to talk to 'devastated locals' in the Bylong Valley instead. Stokes dumped his conference appearance and told the *Tele* he was planning his own trip to the Bylong Valley.

Meanwhile, *The Australian* reported Korean power giant Kepco had been encouraged to ask for talks with the NSW government over rebooting the rejected mine during a meeting with Resources Minister Matt Canavan in Seoul on September 23.

The unfolding coal war demonstrates the miners' disproportionate influence compared to community groups such as the Bylong Valley Protection Alliance and Lock the Gate.

Job opportunities exaggerated

A full-page *Tele* advert shouted about the loss of 1,100 jobs without mentioning they are only potential jobs, of

which 650 are temporary construction jobs and 450 are operational jobs.

With mining companies enthusiastically pursuing automation, such as driverless trucks, the figures are likely to be an exaggeration. Truck drivers make up around half the average mine's workforce, but are set to be eliminated as automation takes hold.

The Minerals Council portrayed the IPC as an 'unelected and unaccountable body' and obviously wants politicians – easily swayed by industry donors and lobbyists – to control the planning process.

Factors like environmental law, science, and the opposition of local people who would be disastrously impacted by the mine don't rate any acknowledgement from mining spokesman Stephen Galilee or his Murdoch facilitators.

Phillip Kennedy, a Bylong Valley farmer, said: "It is obscene that the NSW Minerals Council is running a campaign like this during an intense drought which doesn't look like ending any time soon.

"There are whole towns running out of water.

"Feed is so scarce right now – we need to conserve the land and water we have so we can grow fodder.

"We cannot sustain both vitally important agriculture and a dirty great big coal mine.

"We've got the equivalent of a little bathtub in the Bylong Valley, not the Great Artesian Basin. The NSW Minerals Council has no idea – Bylong is a unique, small valley and it is ridiculous for anyone to think a mine won't impact the water and farmland here."

Fodder for starving farm animals further west is being sourced from the Bylong Valley.

Water resources at stake

Lock the Gate Alliance spokesperson, Georgina Woods said, "The Minerals Council is out of touch with the priorities of drought affected regions attempting to safeguard water resources.

"There's no future for regional NSW if we sacrifice precious water resources for the sake of a short-term mining grab. That's what the Independent Planning Commission understood:



development must provide for future generations, not short-change them

"It's common sense that there are some places where open cut coal mining is not appropriate and our most fertile farmland is one of them."

Muswellbrook Shire mayor Martin Rush told the *Muswellbrook Chronicle* he wasn't surprised at the Bylong mine's rejection, but said the NSW Minerals Council overstepped the mark with its criticism of the IPC.

Statement untrue, damaging

"The statement by the NSW Minerals Council was not only untruthful but also terribly damaging of the important relationship between the independent planning authority and the NSW mining industry," he said.

"The comments do an enormous disservice to the NSW mining industry.

"And, I'm sure the individual members of the NSW Minerals Council will be questioning the wisdom of the NSW Minerals Council making those sorts of emotional and untruthful comments.

"It cannot possibly be in the interests of the NSW mining industry to be engaging in that sort of behaviour."

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Westernport delivers message to AGL board



On Thursday last week Environment Victoria took the fight against AGL's plans to build a polluting gas import project in beautiful Westernport Bay to AGL's AGM in Sydney.

On behalf of nine groups, they delivered an open letter to AGL board members and shareholders. "We made it clear community opposition to this project will not go away until AGL bin their dirty gas plan," Environment Victoria said.

Photo: Environment Victoria

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Call to prosecute Chevron over CO2

Western Australia's peak conservation and climate organisation have called for WA's biggest polluter to be prosecuted for unauthorised emissions from the Barrow Island LNG facility since the commencement of the project.

The Conservation Council of Western Australia (CCWA) was responding to the release of an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report into Chevron's failed pollution control system at the facility.

The EPA was asked by the Minister for the Environment in April 2018 to clarify the intended start date for the controversial and problematic pollution control system. The EPA has rejected Chevron's arguments for a late start date, ruling that the pollution control should have been operating since 2016.

CCWA Director Piers Verstegen said Chevron's intentional delays to the pollution control equipment had resulted in millions of tons of additional carbon pollution and the company should now be prosecuted for these unauthorised emissions.

"Chevron is Western Australia's largest polluter, and their emissions are the primary reason behind Australia's recent overall pollution increases.

"Today's EPA report makes it clear that Chevron's pollution control equipment has not been working since 2016. Chevron must now provide alternative offsets for up to 10 million tons of additional carbon pollution that have resulted during this period, as required in their Ministerial conditions.

"The lack of action by Chevron to offset carbon pollution or even undertake basic compliance with their operating conditions is costing Western Australia jobs.

"Independent research shows that offsetting carbon pollution from Western Australia's LNG industry would create 4,000 new jobs in industries like carbon farming, tree planting and renewable energy.

"By failing to comply with its conditions, Chevron is holding back WA's clean state potential and preventing job opportunities from being realised across WA, while the company sends fat profits to its overseas shareholders.

Even if pollution control equipment were successfully implemented, the Barrow Island facility would still be one of WA's largest sources of carbon pollution, with around 6 million tons of carbon pumped into the atmosphere every year."

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Whitehaven will automate new mine

Whitehaven Coal has been caught out lying about its workforce plans for its controversial Vickery project in North West NSW, with the company now planning an automated fleet in direct contradiction of previous statements supplied to the government and the public.

It was reported recently that Whitehaven chief executive Paul Flynn said Whitehaven is exploring autonomous vehicles and other options to lower the mine's operating costs.

"The work that we are doing is all about optimising Vickery to ensure that we can bring that cost down. Success of an autonomous rollout at Maules Creek [mine] will be instrumental in lowering costs at Vickery given the proportion of its total costs that's going to be spent in moving dirt," Mr Flynn was reported saying.

These comments contradict the company's previous statement that, "Whitehaven has no current plans for the Project to include an automated fleet" on page 170 in its response to submissions, published in August this year.

The company made no mention of an automated workforce in its original EIS.

Breeza farmer Peter Wills said, "This is another kick in the teeth for the people battling this groundwater guzzling, unpopular coal mine.

"The people of the north west have learned from experience of Whitehaven's mines at Werris Creek, Narrabri Underground and Maules Creek that this company does not keep promises.

"Now we learn that not only does Whitehaven want to take our water, but it is also likely to require much fewer workers than it originally suggested.

"The Independent Planning Commission has also already red-flagged more than a dozen environmental flaws with the project.

"We renew our call for the IPC to reject the proposal."

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Morrison govt pushing coal in Asia

By Eve Sinton

Fresh details of Morrison Government's coal spruiking have emerged as Australia was blocked from speaking at this week's UN climate summit.

New documents were released under Freedom of Information as Australia was blocked from speaking at the United Nations climate summit in New York due to the Morrison Government's ongoing support for coal and lack on new climate commitments.

The documents reveal the lengths the Morrison Government is going to spruik polluting coal across the world, despite worsening climate damage and increasing hits to Australia's international reputation.

Sales pitch in Vietnam, Bangladesh

They suggest coal was a central topic of Prime Minister Scott Morrison's visit to Vietnam in August, with the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science urging the strong focus to "partially mitigate declining [coal] exports elsewhere, notably China".

The documents, released to the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF), also show Resources Minister Matt Canavan spruiked coal to officials from Bangladesh, where millions of rural and poor people are at extreme risk from climate damage, on a recent trip during in which he also flogged coal to India.

"Our government is trashing Australia's international reputation because of its addiction to polluting coal," ACF Climate Change Campaigner, Christian Slattery, said.

"As major importers of Australian coal transition to cleaner forms of energy, the Morrison Government is doing the industry's bidding by trying to push more coal on other markets.

"Australia could become a clean industry superpower. A recent study from the Australian-German Energy Transition Hub detailed how we could become a net exporter of clean energy through green hydrogen, green steel and aluminium produced from green electricity.

"But the Morrison Government seems instead intent on selling a twentieth century technology to a twenty-first century world and doing a great deal



An export coal carrier at the Port of Newcastle. Photo: AICD

The Morrison Government seems intent on selling a twentieth century technology to a twenty-first century world and doing a great deal more climate damage while they are at it.

more climate damage while they are at it.

The briefing note to Senator Canavan, said that with "a significant expansion of coal-fired power in Bangladesh expected in the near future", there were opportunities for Australia "to establish a new export market for thermal coal".

It outlined three new coal-fired power plants expected to open in the low-lying south Asian nation, in addition to one existing plant, noting reports that Bangladesh coal imports "could reach 45 million tonnes by 2025".

In a section on "sensitivities", the briefing note says: "none".

Denialist government's chutzpah

Writing in *Crikey*, Jeff Sparrow said, "If chutzpah was combustible, Prime Minister Scott Morrison could single-handedly solve the global energy crisis.

"After ostentatiously not attending the UN climate action summit, our 'man of titanium' capped off his American tour by insisting that China, as a rising power, must do more to reduce emissions.

The effrontery was gobsmacking, not merely because the statement coincid-

ed with analysts and former diplomats accusing Scott Morrison of leading a 'denialist government' – but also because, in 2018, Australia sold China about \$15 billion worth of coal, a substance that, as you might have heard, bears some link to carbon pollution."

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Inside the news

Adani has appointed a former Mt Arthur Mine boss to direct development of the Carmichael Mine and rail project. But **The Australia Institute** says the Queensland government shouldn't sign any **royalties** deal with Adani until the rail project – and terms of access for other potential users of the line – are finalised, rather than rushing to meet a September 30 deadline (p7).

Infuriated by the Independent Planning Commission's rejection of Kepco's Bylong Mine, the **NSW Minerals Council** has launched a media assault (p8) which has drawn criticism.

Although the **Western Australian government** has lifted its **fracking ban**, industry sources say the cost of fracking the **Kimberley** means development there is unlikely to proceed while there's cheap gas to be had in the **Browse** basin (p10).

The **climate crisis** featured in world headlines as people like **Greta Thunberg** spoke at the United Nations climate summit, while **Scott Morrison** and **Donald Trump** had nothing to contribute.

Right wing commentators (p11-12) have made cruel attacks on Thunberg's character, describing her as a mentally ill child who should stay in school. But others see her as a true leader, the **voice of a generation**.

Around **75 aged climate deniers** have signed up to a Clintel declaration that CO2 is plant food, and there is no climate emergency. Signatories include **Hugh Morgan**, **Ian Plimer** and **Peter Ridd** (p13).

Australia continues to **spruik coal** on international diplomatic missions (p13-14), while Scott Morrison's intransigence on climate issues during his US trip has drawn plenty of flack (p15-16).

Morrison has sought to distract attention from climate by announcing plans for improved **plastic recycling**.

While worthy, his ambition to clean up plastic in Australia's oceans won't save the planet.

A coherent **carbon policy** would be much more useful.

PHICS GREEN PIGEON GRAPHICS GREEN

PROUD SUPPORTER OF
THE FOSSIL FOOL BULLETIN

f GreenPigeonGraphics gpg@bordnet.com.au

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Fossil Fool Bulletin

Published by Eve Sinton
PO Box 555, Mullumbimby,
NSW 2482, Australia



Fossil Fool Bulletin



fossil.fool.bulletin@gmail.com
evesinton@gmail.com

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In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 25,400 words of news for your convenience.
Click on the [links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/crime-and-justice/environmentalists-slam-delay-in-states-prosecution-of-adani/news-story/>

Environmentalists slam delay in State's prosecution of Adani

Warren Barnsley, *Courier-Mail*, 20/09/2019

Environmentalists have criticised a further delay in the Queensland Government's "urgent" prosecution of Adani for allegedly providing false or misleading information regarding its Carmichael coal mine.

The matter was expected to be heard in Brisbane Magistrates Court today but was adjourned by consent to October 18.

A previous court date last month was also adjourned before commencement.

The state environment department has accused the Indian mining company of providing "false and misleading information" regarding the disturbance of land.

Adani has claimed the allegations are over an "administrative error".

<https://www.dailyliberal.com.au/story/6402199/new-man-named-to-lead-adani-project/>

Mount Arthur Coal general manager David Boshoff confirmed as new Carmichael mine and rail project leader

Joanne McCarthy, *Daily Liberal*, 24/09/2019

David Boshoff has resigned from the Muswellbrook mine to take up the role of project director for the controversial Adani Carmichael mine and rail project in Queensland.

Boshoff will take up the position of chief operating officer once the construction phase has been completed.

Adani says construction of the Carmichael project is now well underway and they are recruiting for a number of positions.



A group of 30 people disrupted work on September 26 at Adani's controversial Carmichael mine, blocking access from the Adani work camp in central Queensland. The group included a number of young families, who said they were acting in support of the school children-led global climate strike last Friday. Photo: FLAC

<https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/townsville/a-pair-of-antiadani-protesters-have-attempted-to-stop-drilling-at-the-carmichael-coal-mine/news-story/>

A pair of anti-Adani protesters have attempted to stop drilling at the Carmichael coal mine

Michael Thompson, *Townsville Bulletin*, 25/09/2019

A pair of protesters have suspended themselves from a tree in an attempt to stop drilling at Adani's Carmichael coal mine.

The protesters – Noan Neate, 22, and Gabriel Macs-Martin, 19 – have suspended themselves from a tree tied off to two drill rigs

The pair said in a statement through Frontline Action on Coal that they were 'echoing' demands from last Friday's global climate strike of no new fossil fuel projects, 100 per cent renewable energy generation by 2030 and a 'just' transition for workers to sustainable industries.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/sep/27/adani-coalmine-queensland-warned-not-to-sign-royalty-deal-until-rail-line-agreed>

Adani coalmine: Queensland warned not to sign royalty deal until rail line agreed

Ben Smees, *Guardian*, 27/09/2019

Queensland taxpayers risk subsidising "a foreign-owned unregulated monopoly asset" if the state government signs a royalties agreement with Adani before securing access to the company's rail line, the Australia Institute says.

The state government has set a self-imposed deadline of 30 September to finalise the terms of a royalty deferment with Adani. Both parties say negotiations over royalties are ongoing and confidential.

Under a "transparent policy framework" adopted by the state in 2017, Adani must provide multi-user infrastructure to be eligible to defer royalty payments.

In a new report, the Australia Institute argues a royalty deal should not be signed until after the QCA has assessed the rail line. It estimates a royalties deferment could be worth \$250m to \$700m to Adani. The Australia Institute's research director,



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Roderick Campbell, said the competition authority needed to work with Adani on access agreements “like in all Queensland’s rail lines and other significant infrastructure.

“Otherwise, there is no guarantee that Adani’s rail can be used by other parties and is therefore not eligible for the royalty deferment,” Campbell said. “Adani shouldn’t be treated differently to the rest of the coal rail network.

“This is a worthy investment of time to ensure Queensland taxpayers are not left short-changed subsidising a rail line that would ultimately be a foreign-owned, unregulated monopoly asset.

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.geelongadvertiser.com.au/news/nsw-mining-industry-launches-unprecedented-attack-on-state-government/news-story/>

NSW mining industry launches unprecedented attack on State Government

Anna Caldwell, Daily Telegraph, 24/09/2019

The mining sector will today launch an extraordinary advertising attack on the NSW government, condemning the state’s planning system for costing jobs and more than a billion dollars of investment.

NSW Minerals Council chief Stephen Galilee said the public campaign was “an indication of the depth of frustration and disillusionment felt with the NSW planning system, and with Planning Minister Rob Stokes”.

Reminiscent of the anti-mining tax campaign that savagely wounded then prime minister Kevin Rudd, the print, radio and online ads running from today attack the “unelected, part-time planning panel” that rejected a proposed Bylong coal mine last week.

The campaign is backed by a multi-million-dollar “fighting fund” from industry and will be expanded throughout the state after initially targeting Sydney this week to coincide with the parliamentary sitting week.

The catalyst was the Independent Planning Commission’s refusal to support the Bylong project, citing “scope three emissions” – the impact of coal burnt in Korea – as one of the reasons.

The mining sector has also mobilised residents in mining communities to write directly to the Premier and their local member to vent frustrations.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-australia-mining-coal/australian-mining-lobby-launches-ad-bltz-urging-reforms-after-coal-projects-blocked-idUKKBN1W90LD>

Australian mining lobby launches ad blitz urging reforms after coal projects blocked

Melanie Burton, Reuters, 24/09/2019

An influential lobby group for Australia’s multi-billion-dollar coal mining industry has launched an advertising blitz to rally public support for an overhaul of state planning laws after a commission blocked new projects citing climate change concerns.

Funded by the mining industry including global giant BHP Group, the New South Wales Minerals Council said on Tuesday it would draw on a multi-million dollar “fighting fund” in promoting the campaign “to protect NSW jobs and the economy”.

“The (mining) industry has repeatedly warned the (NSW state) Planning Minister of the risks to the NSW economy ... These issues reached crisis point last week following the (IPC) decision to refuse consent for the Bylong project,” NSW Minerals Council Chief Executive Officer Stephen Galilee said.

“This refusal has meant the loss of 1,100 jobs for the local region and over a billion dollars in investment to NSW.”

<https://www.themercury.com.au/news/national/planning-minister-stokes-to-speak-at-climate-conference-wanting-to-seize-control-of-the-driverless-train/news-story/>

Planning Minister Stokes to speak at climate conference wanting to seize control of ‘the driverless train’

Matthew Benns, Daily Telegraph, 24/09/2019

Straight after the rejection of a \$300 million coal mine that would have created 1,100 jobs Planning Minister Rob Stokes was set to be the keynote speaker at an activist group’s “climate emergency” conference.

But last night Mr Stokes dramatically backed away from the “I, human in the climate emergency” event after being contacted by *The Daily Telegraph*, which offered to pay his airfare to talk to devastated locals in the Bylong Valley instead.

Stokes was being given top billing for the October 31 climate emergency event with its key message that “I, human want to take control of the driverless train.”

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/kepco-urged-to-continue-coal-mine-talks/news-story/>

Kepeco urged to continue coal mine talks

Perry Williams, Aus, 24/09/2019

Korean power giant Kepco has been encouraged to hold talks with the NSW government over rebooting its rejected Bylong coal mine after meeting with Resources Minister Matt Canavan in Seoul late on Monday.

“I asked them to stick with it because I think we will find a way forward given the local support,” Senator Canavan said.

<https://www.muswellbrookchronicle.com.au/story/6404085/ipc-criticism-unfair/>

Muswellbrook Shire mayor Martin Rush not surprised by Independent Planning Commission’s rejection of Bylong Coal Project

Rod Thompson, Muswellbrook Chronicle, 24/09/2019

Would Muswellbrook Shire have profited if the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) approved the Kepco Bylong Australia Pty Ltd development?

Mayor Martin Rush believes so, but he wasn’t shocked by the IPC’s ruling to reject the open cut and underground facility in the Bylong Valley last week.

One of the organisations deeply disappointed by the verdict was the NSW Minerals Council.

It slammed the IPC, with CEO Stephen Galilee saying it highlighted the utter failure of the NSW planning system.

However, Cr Rush feels the NSW Minerals Council overstepped the mark with its criticism of the IPC.

“The statement by the NSW Minerals Council was not only untruthful but also terribly damaging of the important relationship between the independent planning authority and the NSW mining industry,” he said.

“The comments do an enormous disservice to the NSW mining industry.

“And, I’m sure the individual members of the NSW Minerals Council will be questioning the wisdom of the NSW Minerals Council making those sorts of emotional and untruthful comments.

“It cannot possibly be in the interests of the NSW mining industry to be engaging in that sort of behaviour.”

<https://www.themercury.com.au/news/national/government-reacts-to-coal-mine-rejections-backlash-by-looking-at-scope-three-emissions-rules/news-story/>

Government reacts to coal mine rejections backlash by looking at scope three emissions rules

Anna Caldwell, Daily Telegraph, 26/09/2019

Restrictions are in line for green planning rules used in NSW to block mines based on emissions created when their coal is sold and burnt overseas.

Premier Gladys Berejiklian's office has held conversations with three senior ministers about their ideas on regulating how and when "scope three" emissions are factored into mine approvals and other projects in a major win for the industry.

It can also be revealed the government is drafting a clear policy position to ensure state planning decisions and mine approvals do not try to regulate where coal can and cannot be exported.

It follows massive industry backlash after the Independent Planning Commission cited emissions in Korea as a reason for rejecting the multimillion-dollar Kepco Bylong Valley coal mine.

<https://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/6402805/shenhua-green-tick-looks-out-of-step-with-recent-mine-rejections/>

Shenhua green tick 'looks out of step' with recent mine rejections

Jamieson Murphy, Northern Daily Leader, 24/09/2019

Opponents of the Shenhua coal mine say if the Liverpool Plains proposal sought to gain approval today, rather than four years ago, it would be rejected.

The Bylong coal mine was recently knocked back due to "unacceptable impacts on groundwater, heritage and some of Australia's best agricultural soils", while it's affect on climate change was also noted.

Liverpool Plains farmer Hugh Price said the rejected Bylong mine was "strikingly similar" to the Shenhua proposal.

The Rocky Hill coal mine near Gloucester was blocked earlier this year by the NSW Land and Environment Court, which cited its contribution to climate change as a key reason for refusing the application.

"That's pretty telling - had [Shenhua's] application gone in today, it wouldn't gone this far," Price said. "It looks pretty out of step with what's happening now."

<https://www.jimboombatimes.com.au/story/6405237/stalled-coal-mine-extension-could-threaten-local-jobs/>

Stalled New Hope coal mine approvals could impact jobs in Beaudesert

Larraine Sathicq, Jimboomba Times, 25/09/2019

After New Hope's Acland coal mine on the Darling Downs announced they would sack 150 workers last week, Scenic Rim businesses are preparing for the repercussions.

AJ Bush director David Kassulke says with the coal mine stopping supply to Beaudesert customers next month, the firm will have to shell out \$50,000 a month to ship coal in from NSW.

AJ Bush & Sons director David Kassulke said the situation could prove dire for local business.

"No coal means no steam at these meatworks - and the impact comes all the way back to beef producers who no longer have buyers for their livestock," he said.

"Perhaps there is alarm at climate change and a lack of action to curb emissions. It was distressing to watch the Swedish girl Greta Thunberg at the UN on Monday.

"But if the world followed our example, global emissions would be halved.

"At AJBush & Sons Beaudesert we have reduced our coal consumption by 50%, and produce 40% of our electrical power requirement on site using biogas as the fuel.

"Soon, this will increase to 80% of our electrical requirements."

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-09-26/hazel-wood-operators-should-have-foreseen-mine-fire-jury-told/11519524>

Hazelwood Power Corporation should have foreseen fire in open-cut coal mine, court hears

Nicole Asher & Jarrod Whittaker, ABC, 26/09/2019

The operators of Hazelwood Power Station should have been better prepared for a blaze in its open-cut brown coal mine that burned for 45 days five years ago, a court has heard.

- Hazelwood Power Corporation is accused of 14 breaches of health and safety laws relating the 2014 mine fire 2014;
- The jury heard HPC failed to prepare for fire danger during one of Victoria's driest summers;
- The trial, expected to last eight weeks, was relocated to Melbourne because of concerns a Morwell jury

would be too familiar with the case.

Smoke from the fire, which was started by nearby bushfires in February 2014, blanketed parts of the Latrobe Valley including the town of Morwell in thick smoke carrying coal dust.

OIL & GAS LEAKS

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-09-23/kimberley-gas-fracking-moratorium-lifted/11475150>

Fracking applications now welcome in WA, but industry's biggest challenge could still be ahead

Ben Collins, ABC, 23/09/2019

Now that Western Australia's moratorium on fracking has been lifted, can gas from the Kimberley prove that it is economically viable?

While grand project concepts and environmental protests often dominate the coverage of the region's oil and gas potential, the cost of doing business in a remote area with few roads and no pipelines has been the defining force.

Dr Peter Moore, an adjunct professor at Curtin University, has been an executive for Woodside Petroleum and is a director for Beach Energy and Carnarvon Petroleum.

He said, "It costs a lot of money to develop an opportunity out there and get gas to the market because you need to put a pipeline in to get gas out and they're expensive".

Chairman of the WA Domgas Alliance Richard Harris said the cost of producing gas and building a pipeline from the Kimberley could be prohibitive in the short term.

He suggested that the high cost of a long pipeline could be avoided by using the gas in the Kimberley.

"Using that gas in situ to turn it into methanol, fertiliser or petrochemicals is one opportunity for proponents," Mr Harris said.

"I'd be looking to having projects in Derby, using the gas in the Kimberley."

A major port development for Derby has been proposed by development companies owned by WA billionaires Kerry Stokes and Tim Roberts.

A concept plan describes channels dredged to a tidal lock capable of accommodating vessels up to 230 metres long, leading to an excavated basin large enough to contain the Australian Navy's biggest ships.

The plan also lists potential customers coming from industries including tour-



A port development proposed for Derby, WA, includes a tidal lock and excavated basin.
Graphic: Warburton Group & Australian Capital Equity

ism, fishing, livestock, oil and gas. The Kimberley's four shire councils came together in March 2019 and voted for in-principle support of a pipeline connecting the region's towns and mine sites with potential gas fields.

Environmentalists insist fracking remains a threat to the environment.

Environmentalists and industry supporters also strongly disagree on the carbon emissions that would result from a Kimberley gas industry.

But the argument over the environmental impacts of gas fracking in the Kimberley looks likely to remain mostly theoretical for the foreseeable future, with Woodside Petroleum preparing to pipe cheaper conventional gas from its offshore Browse Basin.

As long as cheaper gas was readily available in Western Australia, gas that required the added cost of fracking would face significant economic challenges.

<https://www.michaelwest.com.au/gas-how-australia-privatised-the-profits-and-socialised-the-losses/>

Gas: how Australia privatised the profits and socialised the losses

Clinton Fernandes, Michaelwest.com, 25/09/2019

Norway delivered its oil and gas riches to its people, Australia delivered the profits into foreign hands, having done the exploration, spending years and billions proving up giant gas fields. As the gas cartel rakes in the profits exporting LNG at the expense of local consumers Clinton Fernandes presents a timely reminder of the enormous public subsidies for large corporations.

The Australian public funded the costs and – crucially – the risks of investment in fundamental research and the corporate sector benefited from the energy riches in the continental shelf.

In contrast, Norway made better use of the oil and gas in its continental shelf. The Norwegian government owns two-thirds of the shares in Equinor, formerly known as the Norwegian State Oil Company.

The Commonwealth should have insisted on equity in the North West Shelf Project at the very beginning, when share prices were affordable.

In Australia, in the absence of a nationally owned energy company, the “national interest” amounts to the socialisation of costs and risks, and the privatisation of profits.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/new-emissions-hurdle-for-gorgon-lng-project/news-story/844a5ef913d01160faacadea4a7d1680>

New emissions hurdle for Gorgon LNG project

Paul Garvey & Perry Williams, Aus, 26/09/2019

Chevron's massive \$US55bn Gorgon LNG project faces a fresh challenge after Western Australia's environment watchdog set a near-impossible target for the ambitious carbon injection project.

The US energy giant and its partners now face a possible costly bill for extra carbon offsets following Wednesday's decision by WA's Environmental Protection Authority.

The EPA announced it now considered Gorgon had officially been in production since July 2016, when it received its first operations licence.

That means Chevron and its partners have little hope of meeting the requirement to capture and store at least 80 per cent of Gorgon's carbon emissions every five years, given its signature carbon injection project only began operation last month.

Chevron argued that the project should only be considered to have reached routine production in July 2018, when the last of three LNG processing trains at Gorgon officially started up, but the EPA rejected that argument.

“Chevron has authorisation to construct a fourth gas processing train for the Gorgon gas development,” the EPA said.

“If the view is taken that routine or steady state operations are not achieved until all processing trains are in production then it is possible to construct the view that ‘operations’ may never commence if plans exist for future trains to come online.”

<https://www.afr.com/companies/energy/activists-demand-caps-on-qld-lng-exports-20190925-p52uub>

Activists demand caps on Qld LNG exports

Angela Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 26/09/2019

Federal Resources Minister Matthew Canavan is under pressure to consider a blanket cap on LNG exports from Queensland as activist groups, including The Australia Institute, argue the existing LNG export control policy is only entrenching high prices for east coast gas users.

“Placing a cap on LNG exports would ensure that gas saved by efficiency measures and switching would go to Australian users rather than being exported by LNG companies,” said TAI principal adviser Mark Ogge, calling also for energy efficiency and fuel switching to reduce gas use.

Lock the Gate Alliance is meanwhile calling for a cap on exports set at about 80 per cent of the current capacity of the three LNG export terminals on Gladstone's Curtis Island.

“This would provide a substantial surplus back into the market and have a flow-on effect for gas prices,” it said.

Canavan gave no indication the government is considering LNG export caps or a price trigger in the ADGSM, saying it was focused on protecting Australian industry and jobs through securing domestic supplies and driving down prices, and encouraging new investment.

CLIMATE CRISIS

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/weather-events-will-be-catastrophic-un-report-outlines-climate-crisis-20190922-p52tsu.html>

'Weather events will be catastrophic': UN report outlines climate crisis

Ben Weir, SMH, 23/09/2019

Climate change is having dangerous impacts and countries will need to triple their emissions reduction levels to meet agreed upon commitments.

The United in Science report, compiled by scientists from around the world, will be presented to the UN Climate Action Summit in New York on Monday, and it paints a dire warning of a "climate crisis" which will have dangerous impacts for generations to come.

"There is a growing recognition that climate impacts are hitting harder and sooner than climate assessments indicated even a decade ago," the report said.

"Climate change is the defining issue of our time and now is the defining moment to do something about it," the UN said on its website for the event.

The report showed key indicators of climate change: global average temperatures, sea level rises and glacier sizes showed the last five years had seen unprecedented warming.

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/world/2019/09/23/hottest-five-years-un-climate-change-report/>

Planet is getting hotter, oceans rising quicker and glaciers melting faster: UN

Cait Kelly, New Daily, 23/09/2019

Global warming is already eroding Earth's ecosystem in ways that will release misery on a global scale if it is not mitigated soon, a landmark UN report has revealed.

The past five years were the hottest since global temperature records began, the report – compiled by the world's leading scientists for the United Nations Climate Action Summit – revealed.

The report names and shames Australia as being one of the world's highest emitters per capita.

"The highest-per-capita emissions are found in the USA, Australia and top oil producers such as Saudi Arabia," it reads.

"Despite extraordinary growth in renewable energy over the past decade, the global energy system is still dominated by fossil fuel sources.

Greta Thunberg. Photo: Facebook



"The annual increase in global energy use is greater than the increase in renewable energy, meaning fossil fuel use and CO² emissions continue to grow."

Australia plays a large part in the global fossil fuel industry, being the world's third-largest exporter and the largest among the OCED countries.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/sep/23/atlassian-billionaire-to-announce-net-zero-emissions-target-at-un-climate-summit>

Atlassian billionaire to announce net zero emissions target at UN climate summit

Katharine Murphy, Guardian, 25/09/2019

Australian tech entrepreneur Mike Cannon-Brookes will travel to the United Nations summit on climate change in New York to announce that Atlassian will adopt a target of net zero emissions by no later than 2050.

The commitment will see Atlassian become the first major Australian company to join the Business Ambition for 1.5C.

Cannon-Brookes said, increasingly, business leaders were responding to the science of climate change and showing leadership. Other companies to set net zero emissions targets include Vodafone, HP, AstraZeneca, Singtel and Unilever.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-09-24/greta-thunberg-speech-climate-change-un-summit-how-dare-you/11541300>

Greta Thunberg joins climate change activists filing complaint at UN summit against carbon-polluting countries

Claire Knox, ABC, 24/09/2019

Teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg has captured the world's attention in a fierce and passionate speech at the United Nations headquarters, accusing world leaders of failing to act on climate change.

The Swedish campaigner's brief address electrified the start of the Climate Action Summit in New York.

"This is all wrong. I shouldn't be up here. I should be back in school on the other side of the ocean, yet you all come to us young people for hope.

"How dare you," said the 16-year-old, her voice trembling with anger at times.

"You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words.

"We are in the beginning of a mass extinction and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth."

After her speech, Ms Thunberg and 15 other young climate activists filed a complaint with the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child alleging that world leaders' inaction on the climate crisis had violated children's rights.

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/greta-thunberg-is-a-true-leader-by-every-definition-20190925-p52uqd.html>

Greta Thunberg is a true leader by every definition

Mitchell Adams, SMH, 25/09/2019

In the course of a year [Greta Thunberg] has gone from holding her very first climate school strike all by herself outside the Swedish Parliament to inspiring millions of other children around the world to host their own school strikes.

And in doing so, she has become not only the voice of an entire generation but also, arguably, a feminist icon for the 21st century.

[People have] attacked her because she is young ... because she has Asperger's syndrome ...

Amazingly, over the past few weeks, seemingly every conservative commentator, every internet troll and every tin hat-wearing conspiracy theorist has thrown one giant co-ordinated tantrum over Greta, all using some form of dehumanising and degrading language to describe her and paint her in as negative light as possible.

Greta responded: "When haters go after your looks and differences, it means they have nowhere left to go. And then you know you're winning! I have Aspergers, and that means I'm sometimes a bit different from the norm ..."

Greta Thunberg is a true leader in every definition. She's someone who knows what she is talking about, knows she is doing the right thing and can't be bought, intimidated or trifled with.

Even if you don't agree with her or her methods, you should ask yourself if you can say these things about any adults with power and influence these days.

• Mitchell Adams is a Sydney freelance writer.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/comment-isfree/2019/sep/24/australia-has-dodged-global-attention-on-fossil-fuels-because-of-assiduous-diplomatic-efforts>

Australia has dodged global attention on fossil fuels because of assiduous diplomatic efforts

Richie Merzian & Fergus Green, Guardian, 24/09/2019

UN secretary general António Guterres is this week hosting a major gathering of world leaders in an attempt to accelerate global action on climate change.

Countries that are subsidising and

facilitating the expansion of coal, oil and gas production merit just as much critical scrutiny as those that are burning these fuels.

Just as it would be wrong to tackle smoking by focusing only on smokers and ignoring the efforts of Big Tobacco, it is wrong to tackle the global fossil fuel addiction by ignoring the countries that deal heavily in the product.

Not only does Australia encourage other countries to buy its toxic coal and gas, but it works tirelessly in international forums including the G20 and the UN climate system to ensure that its huge fossil fuel exports are not discussed, let alone criticised.

Far from increasing its paltry commitments to climate action, Australia is continuing to ramp up its fossil fuel production, mostly for export.

With 53 coalmines proposed, Australia wants to double its existing production again by 2030, aspiring to be the supplier of choice to fuel a proposed new wave of power stations in Asia.

It is expanding its LNG production, too, with numerous large projects finishing construction and 19 proposals for projects or expansions.

The implication is simple: if Australia achieves its planned fossil fuel expansion, the world cannot achieve the climate goals of the Paris agreement.

There's nothing new about the idea of regulating the supply of dangerous products. For example, tobacco, uranium, asbestos, hazardous waste, ozone-depleting gases and dangerous weapons.

Fossil fuel power stations are catastrophically dangerous weapons and fossil fuels are their ammunition.

It's high time the rest of the world treated Australia like the carbon kingpin it is.

• Richie Merzian is climate and energy director at the independent thinktank the Australia Institute. Fergus Green will be a postdoctoral research fellow at the Ethics Institute at the University of Utrecht from 1 November 2019

<https://www.crikey.com.au/2019/09/23/coal-workers-at-the-climate-strike/>

The coal workers striking for the climate

Kirsten Drysdale, Crikey, 23/09/2019

Friday's school climate strike protests were a spectacle impossible to ignore.

Around Australia, they were joined by a growing number of coal workers — men and women three times their age,

calling for an end to the industry that has been their livelihood for decades. These are people who understand full well the economic gift that the "little black rock" has been, but who can no longer accept the environmental cost it comes wrapped in.

In Newcastle, Ian Hodgson was one of those men. A fitter and turner currently working at the coal-fired Bayswater Power Station, he said, "I can't stand the way it's made into an 'us-versus-them' scenario. Climate change affects all of us. You might work in a mine but you live in the world."

Bruce Lawrence, a former miner also at the Newcastle march, says it's hard for anyone to come to terms with the fact that the fruits of their labour could be harming the planet, especially when personal financial obligations are at stake.

"People get blinded. They see things differently when they're trapped in debt, and everything's about repaying their debt."

<https://www.theage.com.au/business/companies/miners-at-carbon-coalface-in-environmental-arms-race-20190925-p52uwt.html>

Miners at carbon coalface in environmental arms race

Elizabeth Knight, Age, 26/09/2019

The contrast could not be more stark. While Scott Morrison was characterising the comments made by 16-year-old climate activist Greta Thunberg as shrill, Australia's two largest mining companies, Rio Tinto and BHP, were engaged in one-upmanship on their environmental credentials.

It suits the Prime Minister to play down the threat of climate change. But for the businesses closer to the carbon coalface, there is a clear understanding their current model of selling commodities to China, whose steelmaking is hugely emissions intensive, has a use-by-date.

At this stage all BHP and Rio have done is assure their investors they will be applying dollars and technology to the problem.

<https://www.afr.com/wealth/investing/eco-activists-target-banks-on-climate-20190924-p52uh7>

Eco-activists target banks on climate

Aaron Patrick, AFR, 26/09/2019

Buoyed by successful campaigns against AGL, Commonwealth Bank and QBE, climate activist group Market Forces plans to use shareholder mo-

tions to put pressure on Westpac, ANZ, National Australia Bank and other financial companies into choking off capital to the oil, gas and coal industries.

The Melbourne-based “eco-socialist” group will ask Suncorp’s annual shareholder meeting on Thursday to request that the insurer publish a plan to help meet the Paris climate accord’s goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees.

Market Forces, an arm of Friends of the Earth, exploits a rule that allows 100 shareholders to propose motions at shareholder meetings to embarrass boards.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/sep/26/co2-is-plant-food-australian-group-signs-international-declaration-denying-climate-science>

‘CO2 is plant food’: Australian group signs international declaration denying climate science

Graham Readfearn, Guardian, 26/09/2019

A group of 75 Australian former and current business figures – including mining engineers and retired geologists – have signed on to an international declaration targeting the UN and the EU and claiming “there is no climate emergency” and that “CO2 is plant food”.

Several of the signatories to the group – which described itself as Clintel – have high-level links to conservative politics, industry and mining.

They include Hugh Morgan, a former president of the Business Council of Australia, and Ian Plimer, a director on Gina Rinehart’s Roy Hill Holdings iron ore project.

The move was designed to coincide with the UN’s climate action summit and general assembly in New York.

Also signing the declaration is Dr Peter Ridd, the former James Cook University scientist who claims that devastating bleaching events on the Great Barrier Reef are not driven by climate change.

The letter says: “Scientists should openly address the uncertainties and exaggerations in their predictions of global warming, while politicians should dispassionately count the real benefits as well as the imagined costs of adaptation to global warming, and the real costs as well as the imagined benefits of mitigation.”

• *The Climate Intelligence Foundation (CLINTEL) was recently founded in The Netherlands by professor Guus Berkhout journalist Marcel Crok.*

FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.afr.com/wealth/tax/senate-will-inquire-into-adequacy-of-oil-and-gas-taxes-20190920-p52t7f>

Senate will inquire into adequacy of oil and gas taxes

Elouise Fowler, AFR, 21/09/2019

Independent South Australian senator Rex Patrick has accused oil and gas companies of paying little or no tax and short-changing Australians as he launched a Senate inquiry into their tax treatment.

Patrick, of the Centre Alliance, said Australian Taxation Office data “provides clear indications” that the right amount of tax from oil and gas giants hasn’t flowed into the Treasury.

Launching the inquiry, Patrick said the low tax take from oil and gas giants didn’t add up with Australian export data, which showed that more than 10% of total exports by dollar value were derived from oil and gas companies.

He said the tax take from Australian oil and gas giants fell well short of the multibillion-dollars of tax paid by leading gas and oil companies in Norway, Mexico and Saudi Arabia.

<https://www.afr.com/companies/mining/revealed-mining-safety-watchdog-suffered-investigation-flaws-20190918-p52sp9>

Flaws found in mining safety investigations

Liam Walsh, AFR, 20/09/2019

Queensland’s mining watchdog suffered problems with investigating safety breaches that hamstrung its ability to “successfully achieve a prosecution”, according to a confidential government-commissioned review.

The problems also meant it struggled to meet prosecution deadlines, the review found.

It was among a series of flaws, including a maze of information-technology systems that impeded compliance monitoring and weak penalties, unearthed by consultants PwC in a mid-2017 review.

The current maximum jail term for mining safety breaches is three years for multiple deaths. That compares to a 20-year jail term or \$10 million fine for industrial manslaughter under the state’s Work Health and Safety Act or Electricity Safety Act.

The government is considering extending industrial manslaughter laws to mining.

Prosecutions under the Petroleum and Gas Act faced “significant complexities and challenges”, the review found, including defining an “operating plant”, it added.

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/pm-accused-of-trashing-australia-s-reputation-by-spruiking-coal-ahead-of-un-summit-20190922-p52tr1.html>

PM accused of ‘trashing’ Australia’s reputation by spruiking coal ahead of UN summit

Dana McCauley, SMH, 22/09/2019

Environmentalists are accusing Scott Morrison of “trashing” Australia’s international reputation, as official documents reveal the broad scale of his government’s efforts to significantly increase coal exports at a time of mass protests calling for action on climate change.

Departmental briefing notes provided to Resources Minister Matt Canavan ahead of his official visit to Singapore and India last month canvass the potential to expand Australia’s coal exports into Bangladesh - a nation that is among the most vulnerable to the effects of global warning.

The government is seeking to grow its coal exports in overseas markets as it looks to buttress the economic fallout from a deteriorating relationship with China.

Senator Canavan was also briefed on India’s potential as a coal export growth market.

Foreign Minister Marise Payne will front the UN climate change summit this week, but will not address delegates – as Australia is among a group of coal-supporting economies singled out as not getting a spot on the list of 63 speakers.

In an email to the Prime Minister ahead of his official visit to Vietnam last month, bureaucrats advise him to push hard for an expansion of Australia’s coal exports to the nation, which represented a “growth market”.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/behind-closed-doors-australia-pushes-reputation-as-worlds-leading-fossil-fuel-dealer-17543/>

Behind closed doors: Australia pushes reputation as world’s leading fossil fuel dealer

Michael Mazengarb, Renew Economy, 23/09/2019

New documents obtained by the Australian Conservation Foundation obtained under a freedom of information request have shown that Australia

lian Government officials are openly lobbying other countries to increase the use of Australian coal.

Analysis published by Climate Analytics in July found that current projections show that Australia is on track to emerge as the world's largest dealer of greenhouse gas emitting fuels, as Australia continues to push coal and gas while much of the world transitions to cleaner sources of energy.

<https://www.crikey.com.au/2019/09/26/blame-game-china-emissions/>

Coal-loving Morrison scolds China over emissions

Jeff Sparrow, Crikey, 26/09/2019

If chutzpah was combustible, Prime Minister Scott Morrison could single-handedly solve the global energy crisis.

After ostentatiously not attending the UN climate action summit, our “man of titanium” capped off his American tour by insisting that China, as a rising power, must do more to reduce emissions.

The effrontery was gobsmacking, not merely because the statement coincided with analysts and former diplomats accusing Scott Morrison of leading a “denialist government” – but also because, in 2018, Australia sold China about \$15 billion worth of coal, a substance that, as you might have heard, bears some link to carbon pollution.

The hypocrisy would be almost comic, were it not for that little matter of an ever-worsening planetary emergency.

<https://www.afr.com/companies/energy/barnaby-joyce-finds-a-new-cause-in-nuclear-power-20190919-p52t2y>

Barnaby Joyce finds a new cause in nuclear power

Aaron Patrick, AFR, 20/09/2019

Who knew? Barnaby Joyce loves nuclear energy as much as he detests abortions.

The former deputy prime minister has decided that his new parliamentary vehicle, the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Industry, Innovation, Science and Resources, deserves a piece of the nuclear action.

On Friday morning, before a tour of Sydney's own nuclear reactor, Joyce's committee held a “nuclear industry roundtable” discussion that was broadcast live with about 30 energy industry experts, bureaucrats and lobbyists.

At least Australia's best-known back-

bencher was able to produce a slightly unexpected supporter for his new pet cause: the national secretary of the Australian Workers' Union.

Daniel Walton expressed disappointment with union movement colleagues who en masse this week condemned a power source embraced by his membership.

Walton revealed that he came from nuclear country, also known as the Sutherland Shire.

“I have grown up next to the only reactor in this country and I think I turned out OK,” he said.

“You look OK to me,” Joyce replied.

With this team, the nuclear naysayers don't stand a chance.

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/obeid-macdonald-trial-delayed-due-to-adverse-pre-trial-publicity-20190923-p52u5t.html>

Obeid, Macdonald trial delayed due to 'adverse pre-trial publicity'

Michaela Whitbourne, SMH, 23/09/2019

A NSW Supreme Court judge has agreed to delay an imminent criminal trial involving former Labor MP Eddie Obeid, his son Moses and his former ministerial colleague Ian Macdonald on the basis that adverse pre-trial publicity posed an “unacceptable risk” of prejudicing their right to a fair hearing.

The Obeids and Mr Macdonald, a former mining minister, are facing conspiracy charges relating to the granting in 2009 of a lucrative coal exploration licence over the Obeid family's farm at Mount Penny in the Bylong Valley.

Justice Elizabeth Fullerton concluded that adverse pre-trial publicity referring to Obeid senior and Mr Macdonald in the context of a current Independent Commission Against Corruption inquiry, which is investigating alleged misconduct by unrelated Labor figures in 2015, had prejudiced their right to a fair trial.

Justice Fullerton agreed to delay the trial until February 3 next year.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/sep/23/queensland-premier-refuses-to-offer-evidence-to-back-claims-of-sinister-climate-activists>

Queensland premier refuses to offer evidence to back claims of 'sinister' climate activists

Ben Smee, Guardian, 23/09/2019

The Queensland premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, has formally refused to provide any evidence to support her

claims to parliament that climate change activists are using devices “laced with traps”.

Last month, Palaszczuk made the comments – along with social media posts saying protesters were using “sinister tactics” and intended to cause harm – as she announced new laws cracking down on escalating climate and anti-coal demonstrations in Queensland.

The state's lone Greens MP, Michael Berkman, put several questions on notice to Palaszczuk, asking the premier to outline how many examples of such devices she had been made aware of, and the respective dates and locations.

Berkman also asked Palaszczuk to detail how, as she had claimed, the devices were designed to harm.

In her published response, Palaszczuk said she received a briefing “in relation to operational police matters”.

“It would not be prudent to publicly disclose the contents of that briefing,” she said.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/sep/25/nsw-farm-trespass-bill-criticised-for-turning-into-a-crackdown-on-the-right-to-protest>

NSW farm trespass bill criticised for turning into a crackdown on the right to protest

Naaman Zhou & Lisa Cox, Guardian, 25/09/2019

A New South Wales farm trespass bill has been criticised by civil liberties organisations, environment groups and unions for turning into “a crackdown on people's rights to protest”.

The Right to Farm Bill 2019, currently before the NSW parliament, can punish unlawful entry and disruption on “inclosed lands” with up to three years in jail, and increases the fine from \$5,500 to \$22,000.

The bill is aimed at stopping animal rights protests on farms, but a range of groups and MPs say the wording would outlaw civil protest on any enclosed space, including schools, hospitals, mine sites or banks.

Chris Gambian, the chief executive of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, said the threat to protest was “hidden within this bill”.

“It includes farmers and knitting nanas protesting coal seam gas, unions on worksites, people staging a sit-in in corporate headquarters of a company, and more.”

Thomas Costa, the assistant secretary

of Unions NSW, said it was an attempt to legislate against people’s rights to protest.

“The Liberals have a track record of trying to criminalise dissent. They think they can legislate against it and frustrate our very legitimate right to protest,” he said.

“These laws are designed to intimidate activists against taking action. Even if they pass parliament, they won’t quell activist spirit.”

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/companies/al-an-jones-lashes-corporate-cowardice-over-activist-black-mail-20190926-p52v2a.html>

Alan Jones lashes corporate cowardice over activist ‘blackmail’

Jennifer Duke, SMH, 26/09/2019

Breakfast radio presenter Alan Jones has attacked corporate Australia for giving into “blackmail” from activist groups on issues such as climate change, and criticised superannuation funds for putting social goals ahead of returns for members.

The boycott against Jones and Sydney radio station 2GB is being driven by online activist groups including Sleeping Giants Australia and Mad Fucking Witches. It comes after Mr Jones said on air that Prime Minister Scott Morrison should “shove a sock down” New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern’s throat after she criticised Australia’s approach to dealing with climate change.

“Now, someone in the corporate world has got to develop a spine here because these are minorities ... keyboard warriors,” Jones said.

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/2019/09/26/scott-morrison-climate-speech/>

Climate scientists blast Scott Morrison’s ‘ludicrous’ UN speech

Samantha Dick, New Daily, 26/09/2019

Prime Minister Scott Morrison’s speech to the United Nations in which



Australian mining magnate Gina Rinehart scored an invitation to President Trump’s State Dinner for PM Scott Morrison. Apparently, Morrison’s mentor – Hillsong Pastor Brian Houston – missed out, although Morrison has dismissed rumours about Houston as ‘gossip’. Photo: doing the rounds on Facebook

he boasted about Australia’s climate policies has been picked apart by leading environmental scientists.

Speaking to world leaders in New York, Morrison said Australia was on track to meet its emissions reduction targets and that it was unlikely he would update them despite this being a requirement by the Paris agreement’s five-yearly review process.

Climate Council CEO Amanda McKenzie said Mr Morrison’s claims that Australia was doing enough to combat global warming was “colossal bullsh-t”, and that to suggest otherwise was “ludicrous and dangerous”.

Australian Conservation Foundation CEO Kelly O’Shanassy said our coal and gas export industry made us the third largest exporter of fossil fuels in the world behind Russia and Saudi Arabia.

She said the government’s support of the coal industry, including backing the controversial Adani coal mine in Queensland, was “negligent” given the need to phase out coal globally by 2050.

<https://www.theage.com.au/environment/climate-change/pm-s-claim-ocean-plastics-are-more-immediate-threat-disputed-by-scientists->

PM’s claim ocean plastics are ‘more immediate threat’ disputed by scientists

Benjamin Preiss, Age, 26/09/2019

Prime Minister Scott Morrison’s claim that plastic pollution in the oceans is a more immediate threat than climate change has been trashed by scientists.

University of Queensland marine science professor John Pandolfi said, “The plastics is just a smokescreen by the Prime Minister to cover the fact he’s not doing what he should be on climate change”.

Professor Pandolfi said plastic pollution in the ocean was a serious issue but tackling climate change should be a bigger focus.

ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies principal research fellow, Andrew Hoey, said climate change was the single greatest threat to the Great Barrier Reef.

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