



# 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 2:46 • 29 OCTOBER 2019

## NSW caves in to coal lobby

By Eve Sinton

*Following an intense lobbying and advertising campaign by the NSW Minerals Council, the NSW government intends to prevent the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) from considering downstream climate emissions when assessing mining projects.*

The government will move to restrict the IPC from considering the effects of “scope 3” greenhouse gas pollution when considering coal mining projects, with new laws introduced to parliament this week.

Scope 3 emissions are the greenhouse emissions produced when coal is burned at its final destination.

Deputy Premier John Barilaro said, “The changes will restore NSW law and policy to the situation that existed prior to the Rocky Hill decision and will provide the mining sector with greater certainty.”

The mining sector was infuriated that Scope 3 emissions were mentioned – along with other social and environmental factors – in turning down Rocky Hill and KEPCO’s Bylong mine, and imposing conditions on United Wambo’s extension plans. United Wambo must only sell coal to Paris Agreement signatory countries.

### Shameless capitulation to coal lobby

Lock the Gate NSW spokesperson Georgina Woods said the legislation would be remembered by future generations as a shameless capitulation to the coal lobby that would harm communities in NSW.



*The Independent Planning Commission’s knock-back of the Rocky Hill mine generated a NSW Minerals Council campaign that has successfully persuaded the government to change the law in favour of miners. Photo: David Lowe*

“The government is capitulating to mining industry pressure and winding back laws to address the most important strategic, economic and environmental challenge of our century,” she said.

“This is a regressive and fatal mistake that will be remembered for generations.

“New South Wales is right now experiencing a severe and unprecedented bushfire season and one of the worst droughts on record due to climate change. There is so little time left to prevent the problem escalating beyond our control.

### EDO: govt unwilling to grapple with facts

Environmental Defenders Office CEO David Morris greeted the announcement of the legislative package as indicating “an unwillingness to grapple with the serious local impacts from Australian coal burned overseas.”

“A day after the Minerals Council gave evidence to ICAC that they were lobbying privately and publicly for changes to the law, the Government has capitulated, without regard for current or future generations.

“It doesn’t matter where Australian coal is burned, it’s Australian commu-

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• P2: 47 experts urge govt to defend climate

• P3: How fossil fuel co’s fool the public

• P4: Can Clive Palmer buy a mining approval?

# Experts urge govt to defend NSW law and climate

**Forty-seven scientists and experts have signed an open letter urging the NSW Government not to over-rule NSW laws that require climate change impacts to be considered in the assessment of new coal mines.**

The NSW Government is set to legislate restrictions on its own Independent Planning Commission preventing it from considering downstream greenhouse gas pollution (Scope 3 emissions) in major development decisions. Scope 3 emissions from burning coal are by far the largest source of greenhouse gases from coal mined in NSW.

The Government has also launched a review that will consider axing the Independent Planning Commission, increasing the power of politicians to approve coal mines and other controversial developments.

Prominent signatories of the open letter include: Nobel Prize winner Professor Peter Doherty AC, leading climate scientists including Professor Will Steffen, head of the climate team at ANU, Professor Katrin Meissner, Director of the Climate Change Research Centre at UNSW, Professor Andy Pitman, Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence

for Climate Extremes at UNSW. It also includes many of Australia's leading scientists from other key disciplines including, health, economics, energy, and finance, including Professor Hilary Bambrick, Professor John Quiggin, and Dr Liz Hanna.

## Key Points:

- **Emissions from burning coal (Scope 3 emissions) are by far the largest source of greenhouse gas from coal mined in NSW.**
- **An important legal decision in the NSW Land and Environment Court found that the full impact of coal mines on climate change, including emissions from burning the coal must be considered in assessing new coal mines. It also rejected many long-standing arguments by the coal industry for avoiding considering these emissions.**
- **The coal lobby has run a relentless campaign against this legal precedent, including unprecedented and misleading attacks on the state's Independent Planning Commission.**
- **It has been reported that the NSW Government will cave in to pressure from the coal lobby and change the law to prevent emissions from the burning of coal being considered in the assessment of new coal mines.**

"Allowing new coal mines in NSW is incompatible with the NSW Government's climate policy of net zero emissions by 2050," said Richie Merzian, Climate & Energy Program Director at the Australia Institute.

"The NSW Government should strengthen planning rules to limit new coal mines whilst supporting regional communities to diversify their economies and seize new job opportunities in renewable energy and other industries.

"The impacts of climate change are made worse by emissions from coal mined in NSW. These mines add around 500 million tonnes of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere every year, almost as much as Australia's entire domestic emissions," Merzian said.

"It is absolutely clear from any assessment of what is required to meet the Paris climate targets – to which Australia is a signatory – that no new fossil fuel developments can be allowed. This means no new coal mines in Australia,

or elsewhere," said Professor Will Steffen, head of the climate team at ANU.

"In fact, our challenge is to phase out existing fossil fuel facilities over the next couple of decades, with just transition plans in place to support workers and communities affected," Steffen said.

## Former coal exec calls out hypocrisy

Ian Dunlop, former Chairman of the Australian Coal Association, Former senior executive of Royal Dutch Shell, said: "Human-induced climate change is the greatest threat to our national security and future prosperity. It intensifies drought, floods and bushfires and is becoming the key driver of our climate and weather. Scope 3 emissions are the greatest contributing factor. It is absolute hypocrisy to exclude them from government and planning decision-making with much hand-wringing, prayers and crocodile tears over the drought, floods and bushfires they are causing.

"Taking scope 3 emissions into account when considering fossil fuel investments and approvals is critical in the drive to decarbonise energy here in Australia and within the countries to which we export," said Greg Bourne, Councillor at the Climate Council and former regional president BP Australasia.

"Progressively companies and countries are tightening up on supply chain that have serious externalities. Just as Australia cannot export toxic waste overseas and can no longer dump plastic waste into external markets, Australia is now coming under increasing pressure to clean up its fossil fuel act.

"Investments in activities that create emissions here and overseas cannot be given a free ride in the hope that NSW and Australia will pick up the tab for those emissions by pressurising other sectors of the economy or taxpayers in general to underwrite private profits," Bourne said.

• **The open letter co-ordinated and published by the Australia Institute Climate & Energy Program and can be viewed here:**

<https://www.tai.org.au/sites/default/files/Open%20Letter%20Scope%203%20Emissions.pdf#overlay-context=content/47-experts-urge-nsw-government-defend-nsw-law-and-climate>

## Caving in to miners

• Continued from p1

nities that are and will increasingly feel the brunt of a changing climate. The Government's decision artificially carves out climate impacts from Australian coal on local communities – that is an absurd decision.

"In 2019, as the rest of the world rapidly phases out fossil fuels, we should be urgently planning for a just transition for coal and gas communities and a safe climate for our children.

"The beauty of the Rocky Hill decision was its basis in science and fact. The appalling thing about the Government's decision is that it's based on pure politics and self-interest," Morris said.

The new Bill was introduced this week, but will not be debated until the next sitting day of parliament on 12 November.



# How fossil fuel co's fool the public

*An international group of scientists show that fossil fuel corporations have, for decades, denied the public's right to be accurately informed about climate change by funding efforts to deceive people about the dangers of their product. A report illustrating how the industry "polluted the information landscape" and how the damage could be undone was published last week.*

The report entitled, *'America misled: how the fossil fuel industry deliberately misled Americans about climate change'*, by academics from the universities of Bristol, UK; George Mason, USA and Harvard, USA, summarizes more than a decade of peer-reviewed research, and has been published to help inform policymakers, journalists, and the public.

The report includes what the fossil fuel industry knew versus what they did, the arguments they used to seed doubt in the public, the techniques they used to create those arguments, and some strategies for combating them.

Examples include leaked Exxon internal documents, annotated to demonstrate the disinformation techniques used.

## The key points in the report are:

1. Internal corporate documents show that the fossil fuel industry has known about human-caused climate change for decades. Its response was to actively arrange and fund denial and disinformation to suppress action and protect its status quo business operations.
2. As the scientific consensus on climate change emerged and strengthened, the industry and its political allies attacked the consensus and exaggerated the uncertainties.
3. The fossil fuel industry offered no consistent alternative explanation for why the climate was changing – the goal was merely to undermine support for action.
4. The strategy, tactics, infrastructure, and rhetorical arguments and techniques used by fossil fuel interests to challenge the scientific evidence of climate change – including cherry picking, fake experts, and conspiracy theories – come straight out of the tobacco industry's playbook for delaying tobacco control.

## Denialist techniques

The *America Misled* report identifies how climate denial arguments can be summarised by the five techniques of science denial: fake experts, logical fallacies, impossible expectations, cherry picking and conspiracy theories.



Fake Experts



Logical Fallacies



Impossible Expectations



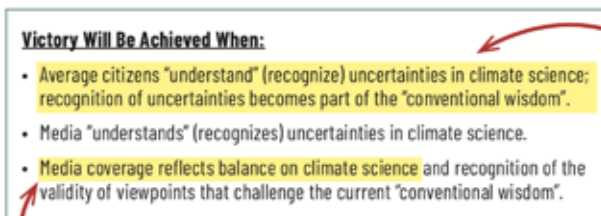
Cherry Picking



Conspiracy Theories

## Exxon's strategy analysed

The report's analysis includes this commentary on an Exxon 1988 internal memo.



*Make the public think scientists don't know anything for sure.*

*Manipulate the media to give attention to "both sides".*

5. Informing the public about how these arguments are deceptive not only begins to correct the misconceptions, but also will make it harder for future campaigns to use these misleading tactics to confuse the public.

## Disinformation blocks action

Professor Stephan Lewandowsky, Chair in Cognitive Psychology in the School of Psychological Science and Cabot Institute for the Environment at the University of Bristol, said: "Disinformation about climate change has a straightforward purpose – to block action on climate change. In America, it has largely succeeded, with policies to mitigate climate change blocked or delayed for decades."

Professor John Cook, at the Center for Climate Change Communication at George Mason University, added: "Exposing and explaining the techniques used to mislead are key to inoculating the public from further industry-funded disinformation."

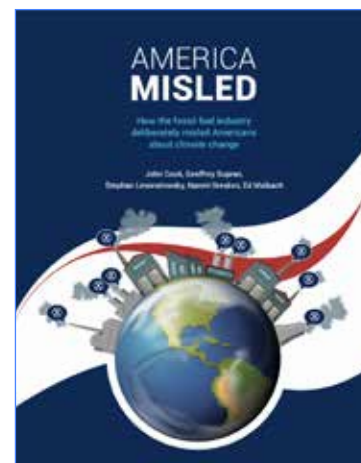
Geoffrey Supran, Research Associate in the Department of the History of Science at Harvard University, explained: "For 60 years, the fossil fuel industry has known about the potential global warming dangers of their products.

But instead of warning the public or doing something about it, they turned around and orchestrated a massive campaign of denial and delay designed to protect profits. The evidence is incontrovertible: Exxon misled the public. Like all bad actors, they should be held accountable."

*'America misled: how the fossil fuel industry deliberately misled Americans about climate change'* by John Cook, Geoffrey Supran, Stephan Lewandowsky, Naomi Oreskes, Ed Maibach

• Download the report here:

[https://www.climatechangecommunication.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/America\\_Misled.pdf](https://www.climatechangecommunication.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/America_Misled.pdf)





# Can Clive Palmer buy a mining approval?

By Eve Sinton

**Billionaire Clive Palmer's Waratah Coal company application for an Environmental Authority and a Mining Lease for a mega-mine in the Galilee Basin has been condemned by local landowners and national environment groups.**

Palmer's push for the project follows Adani's success in bullying governments to approve its Carmichael Mine in the region, and Palmer's recent \$60 million election spend which he admits aimed to polarize the electorate. Palmer argues his advertising helped deliver the Coalition's unexpected win.

Commentators say Palmer's electioneering gives him enormous leverage over governments to promote his business interests, even though he failed to win any seats.

## China First re-branded

Originally known as 'China First', the revived proposal has been re-branded the 'Galilee Coal Project'. (Palmer also has another Galilee Basin mining ambition called Alpha North.)

Located about 30km north of Alpha, the Galilee Coal Project comprises four underground coal mines, two open-cut coal mines and a 453km standard-gauge railway line.

According to an environmental impact statement, the project will create 3,500 jobs in construction and 2,325 jobs in operation – figures which are likely to be highly optimistic, given the industry's track record of exaggerating employment prospects.

The Government's Coal Assessment Hub issued a notice of the mining lease application on October 4, requiring any objections to be lodged on or before December 2.

The 40 million tonne per annum project would destroy a nature refuge in central Queensland if it goes ahead. It had not progressed since 2013 but has now been revived with a public notice advising of the application for leases.

## Landowners object: water worries

Local landowner and Nature Refuge co-owner Paola Cassoni said she would be considering all her options now that the ML and EA had been notified.

"The first of 26 boreholes was sunk on the Nature Reserve in 2008, but we



*The Greens' response to Clive Palmer's Galilee Coal Project. Source: Facebook*

locked our gates and stopped the extra 100 boreholes. We have submitted to the Environmental Impact Statement and voiced our concerns throughout the EIS process.

"But by making an objection to the land court Waratah's assertions about the impacts of the mine can finally be put to the test.

"We have been in drought out here for more than three years. Our groundwater is all we have to depend on. We have no choice but to use all options open to us to protect this important pocket of country."

"We have until December 2 to gather information for our objection. Any Nature Refuge owner out there, and there are more than 500 of us, that feels outraged like we do that this government would allow mining on a Nature Refuge, please join me in the fight.

"And any graziers that are worried about their water, please join us too.

A recent Supreme Court decision has thrown into doubt the consideration of groundwater during the grant of an

Environmental Authority and in any subsequent Land Court processes.

Graziers are now calling on the government to amend legislation to confirm that the impacts of mining on groundwater will be properly considered at all stages of the assessment and approvals process, including for the Galilee Coal Project.

## Reef and climate change impacts

The Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) has called for Palmer's project to be rejected given its impact on the climate and the Great Barrier Reef.

Shani Tager, AMCS Great Barrier Reef Campaign Manager said: "Our precious Reef is in grave danger and needs our care and stewardship more than anything right now. In order to give our Reef a fighting chance in the face of galloping climate change and rising ocean temperatures, we need to urgently transition to renewable energy, not sanction new coal projects like this.

## Palmer pursues massive coal mine approval

• Continued from p4

"Mining and burning more coal at a time when our Reef is already suffering the impacts of climate change is reckless beyond belief.

Ms Tager added: "Just last month the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority warned that the long-term outlook for the health of our Reef is very poor because of climate change. Letting new mines like this go ahead will add fuel to the fire and make things worse.

In addition, the coal from the Galilee Coal Project would be shipped directly through the Great Barrier Reef.

"A healthy Reef is critical for the tourism industry, it is Australia's most loved natural asset and supports 64,000 plus jobs. Queensland and Australia are custodians of our Reef and need to lead by example to show that we can have a bright future beyond coal, which is the only path forwards if we are to avoid runaway climate change.

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## Bylong farmers protest KEPCO mine outside Sth Korean embassy



***Fed-up farmers, their friends, and some farm animals descended on the South Korean Embassy in Canberra last Friday (October 25) to politely present what's at stake if the Korean government-owned corporation KEPCO doesn't relinquish its mining titles in the beautiful Bylong Valley.***

They set up a pen with sheep and hay, while chanting "no coal in Bylong" in Korean.

The visit follows the launch of a TV ad in which farmers from the valley call on the NSW Government to preserve the Bylong Valley in perpetuity from the threat of mining.

KEPCO's coal plans were recently knocked back by the NSW Independent Planning Commission, triggering strident coal lobby demands to get rid of the commission and have politicians make decisions on mine applications.

Bylong farmer Phillip Kennedy called on the Korean Government to pressure KEPCO into selling the properties it purchased in the lead up to the mine being rejected.

"This valley was once a thriving community, but now there are only a small group of us left still working the land," he said.

"We want the valley to return to what it once was, and KEPCO can help achieve that by selling the properties it has purchased and abandoning the coal exploration titles it holds."

Among the properties still held by KEPCO is the renowned Tarwyn Park – the birthplace of natural sequence farming in Australia. Its founder, Peter Andrews, attended the rally.

Lock the Gate spokesperson Nic Clyde said Tarwyn Park held the key to drought-proofing much of Australia.

"Unfortunately, we have seen evidence suggesting KEPCO has not continued natural sequence farming at the property since it purchased it," he said.

"It is vital that Tarwyn Park be transformed into the living laboratory it once was before KEPCO came to the Bylong Valley.

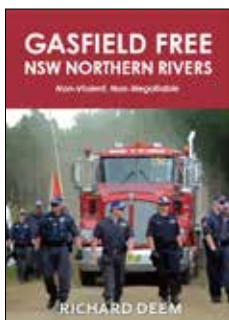
"We congratulate the Republic of Korea on increasing their targets for renewable energy and encourage them to make that a reality by abandoning the Bylong coal project" he said.

• See the TV ad here:

[https://www.lockthegate.org.au/bylong\\_overturn\\_2019](https://www.lockthegate.org.au/bylong_overturn_2019)

**F**

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## Protesters in action this week

There were chaotic scenes this morning as protesters blockaded the **IMARC mining conference** in Melbourne's Exhibition and Convention Centre (pictured top right)..

With over 20 arrests reported, Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack described the protesters' behaviour as "disgraceful", saying they were merely craving media attention.

"Mining and resources provide a lot of money, particularly for the welfare payments a lot of those people are no doubt on," he told the ABC.

Meanwhile, **Sydney Knitting Nannas and Friends** are preparing for their 200th week protesting about **Santos** and the company's Narrabri Gas Project (pictured bottom right).

"It's been nearly 10 years since the people of the north west started trying to stop Santos. So we can celebrate that in that time it hasn't been approved in spite of gas miners having the ear of governments and using lots of repetition in their lies and spin," one Knitting Nanna commented.

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## Farmers say New Acland coal mine draining water

*A new independent scientific review has found major failings with a Queensland Government investigation into the loss of water in farming bores near the New Acland Coal Mine, with farmers now pointing the finger at the mine for causing the drainage.*

Farmers at Mt Darry, north of the existing Acland coal mine, have experienced major drawdown in their water bores over recent years and believe the mine is the most likely cause.

The report, by Dr Matthew Currell of RMIT, has thrown doubt over previous analysis by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, and has identified gaps and weaknesses which suggest that mining impacts are not properly understood.

### Bores drop or dry out

Mt Darry cattle farmer Michael Klein, who lives north of the mine, said: "My bore dropped seriously about four

years ago and that's when I started to worry.

"My neighbour's two bores went dry. Mine didn't go completely dry, we've got a bit of water now but it's never gone back to what it originally was. The only explanation that seems to make sense to me is that the mine caused it.

"We had several meetings with department staff about it, it seemed to be going well, we felt like we were going places, then all of a sudden it came to a halt. We couldn't speak to the blokes we previously could speak to – they just weren't available.

"We were told our water wasn't going into the mine, so I asked them to put dye in it to prove where it was going. One group of staff said it could be done, then others said it couldn't, and that's when all the contact came to a halt," he said.

Dr Currell's review ultimately identified major weaknesses in the DNRM

analysis, and concluded "The absence of such data and analysis contributes to ongoing uncertainty regarding the findings of the report".

Oakey Coal Action Alliance secretary Paul King said: "Professor Currell's findings are worrying. Landholders in the Kulpi region have long suspected there is a direct correlation between mining activities at New Acland and drainage of their water bores.

"Unfortunately, these landholders still do not have a conclusive answer as Dr Currell's report simply casts further doubt on what should have been a rigorous, scientific report from the department.

"Instead, and faced with a potential expansion of the mine, these landholders remain in the dark about the extent to which New Acland operations are impacting their bores, and their livelihoods."

**F**

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## Inside the news

**Adani**, not content with the vengeful bankrupting of **Wangan & Jagalingou Traditional Owner Adrian Burragubba**, has banished him and his son from the Carmichael Mine site. The company got a Supreme Court order which gives them the power to have Burragubba and his son, **Coedy McAvoy**, arrested and facing a possible jail sentence. All while hypocritically claiming to 'respect' the W&J people (p8).

The NSW government's approval of the **Hunter pipeline**, which would connect the proposed **Narrabri gasfield** to Newcastle, has raised alarm bells with groups wanting to protect the Pilliga region. A map of the proposal (p10) shows an extension to the **Wallumbilla gas hub**, opening the way to the gas export plants in Gladstone. This undermines Santos's claim that all Narrabri gas would go to the domestic market.

**Queensland police** have started strip searching **Extinction Rebellion** protesters – more than 20 of them, including a 17-year-old girl (p11).

Energy and emissions minister **Angus Taylor** is under fire for using what appears to be a **forged document** to attack **Sydney Lord Mayor, Clover Moore**, over councillors' air travel emissions. Taylor supplied the false figures to the *Daily Telegraph*, which used them to claim Sydney Council spent millions on air travel – vastly exaggerating the Council's real travel spend. Police have been called to investigate, while Taylor says he will send a letter of apology to Moore (p12). However, **Taylor has refused to provide information** about the source of the forged document. Meantime, he continues to deny that Australia's greenhouse gas emissions are rising.

Federal **Labor** leader **Anthony Albanese** will give a speech today aligning the party with mining, including coal, in the context of working towards a de-carbonised economy.

Meanwhile, **NSW Labor** is divided over 'green-leaning' policies and support for the **Narrabri gasfield** (p13).

## **Fossil Fool Bulletin**

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# In the news this week

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## THE ADANI SAGA

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-10-23/adani-court-wangan-jagalingou-people-qld/11531392>

**Adani security vision used to obtain court order preventing traditional owners from entering site**

Josh Robertson, ABC, 23/10/2019

Adani has made legal moves that expose two traditional owners to possible jail time if they return to a ceremonial camp on the company's Queensland mine site, the men's lawyer has said.

The mining giant engaged a private investigator and equipped security guards with body cameras as part of obtaining a Supreme Court order against Wangan and Jagalingou (W&J) man Adrian Burragubba and his son Coedy McAvoy.

Mr Burragubba's lawyer Col Hardie said the court order was a "disturbing development" that means Adani can automatically call on police to remove Mr Burragubba and his son from the site.

Adani's security guards filmed a verbal confrontation with the two men as they drove out of the mine site on September 4.

Days earlier, the ABC revealed the Queensland Government had quietly extinguished native title over the mine site — including the site of a ceremonial camp set up by W&J mine opponents away from Adani operations — without first telling traditional owners.

Hardie said the "only reason" Adani would seek the court order was "to allow them to invoke criminal sanctions against the W&J people that are opposed to their mine".

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-10-24/adani-contractor-goes-into-crisis-mode-after-protestor-pres-sure/11627612>

**Adani engineering contractor GHD pushed into 'crisis mode', say some staff, after protests over Carmichael coal mine involvement**

Michael Slezak, ABC, 24/10/2019

Leaks from one of Adani's most significant contractors for its Carmichael coal mine, engineering firm GHD, show it has been rocked by internal dissent,



Musicians Rising and supporters staged a protest outside the Adani-owned Abbot Point Coal Port on October 27. "Love in Action!" they said. Photo: Frontline Action on Coal

with some current and former staff saying it went into "crisis mode" after employees bombarded management with complaints and questions about its work on the mine.

[Employees] said the internal disquiet was triggered first by protests outside GHD events and offices in March and then amplified after charity Engineers Without Borders terminated a long-standing partnership between it and GHD over the firm's work for Adani's Carmichael coal mine in August.

## COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.theland.com.au/story/6451471/farmers-bid-for-protection/>

**Farmers call on politicians to protect Bylong Valley**

Daniel Pedersen, The Land, 23/10/2019

Farmers from the Bylong Valley have launched a new TV advertisement calling for permanent protection from mining, following what they have described as an insulting campaign by the Minerals Council of NSW.

The ad calls on the NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian and Deputy Premier John Barilaro to protect Bylong for good, following the decision by the Independent Planning Commission to reject a controversial coal mine slated for the valley. Lock the Gate Alliance

NSW spokesperson, Georgina Woods, said: "It's troubling to see the NSW government this week caving in to pressure from the mining lobby and launching an inquiry into the IPC.

"The mining lobby shouldn't be running NSW. It's time for the premier and her deputy to stand up and put farmers and communities first."

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-10-23/review-questions-qld-government-water-report-at-new-acland-mine/11628098>

**Groundwater impact review questions government's own report on controversial New Acland coal mine**

Nathan Morris, ABC, 23/10/2019

As the controversial New Acland Mine near Toowoomba continues shedding 150 of its workers, an expert report commissioned by a group of landholders has raised questions about the coal mine's impact on groundwater.

In 2017, in response to farmers' concerns of water level declines in bores around Kulpi, north of Toowoomba, the Department of Natural Resources Mines and Energy (DNRME) undertook a review.

But a report by RMIT hydrogeologist Associate Professor Matthew Currell has found gaps in the data and analysis used in that study.



<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/oct/23/australias-hopes-to-expand-coal-exports-in-south-east-asia-delusional-experts-say>

## Australia's hopes to expand coal exports in south-east Asia 'delusional', experts say

Adam Morton, *Guardian*, 23/10/2019

The number of new coal-fired power plants starting construction across south-east Asia has fallen markedly over the past two years as Australia has increasingly looked to the region to expand its thermal coal exports.

Analysis by US-based climate research and advocacy group Global Energy Monitor found work on only 1.5 gigawatts of new coal generation – equivalent to one large Australian plant – began in the region in the six months to June, all of it in Indonesia.

While coal plants take years to build and some under construction are yet to come online, analysts said it raised doubts about whether demand in south-east Asia would continue to grow as the Morrison government expected.

<https://www.themorningbulletin.com.au/news/state-government-responds-to-explosive-coal-report/3860464/>

## State Government responds to explosive coal report

Jack Evans, *Morning Bulletin*, 23/10/2019

An explosive report by *The Australian* has uncovered a chain of internal Queensland Government emails labelled “a plan that could forever change Queensland’s economy.”

The emails uncovered supposed planned environmental hurdles for new projects, especially mining.

However, before the report, there was no public knowledge of the plan.

The report said the proposal’s importance was “confirmed by the timing of its delivery to departmental heads” and in an accompanying email in which the proposal’s author, lawyer Sarah Barker, raised the prospect of “overseas scope 3 emissions” being linked to future approvals for projects like Adani.

A spokeswoman for the department head and Environment Minister Lee-ann Enoch ... said the document was a proposal for legal work submitted to government by a law firm, hence why it was commercial-in-confidence.

“The proposal has not been accepted by the government. It has not been considered by Cabinet,” she said.

“There are no plans to end coal mining in Queensland.”



Clive Palmer's Galilee Basin coal projects, North Alpha and Galilee Coal.

Map: Waratah Coal

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/annastacia-palaszczuk-holds-firm-on-public-risk-paper/news-story/>

## Annastacia Palaszczuk holds firm on 'public risk' paper

Michael McKenna, *Aus*, 23/10/2019

Queensland's Palaszczuk government is continuing to refuse to publicly release documents from consultancy work on climate risk litigation and the possibility of “overseas scope 3 emissions” levels being linked to future approvals on resource projects.

Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk failed to answer a question in state parliament on Tuesday on whether she would order the release of the documents, authored by top Australian environmental lawyers, with the government media office later saying they were “commercial-in-confidence”.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/townsville/state-notifies-public-of-palmer-mining-lease-application/news-story/>

## State notifies public of Palmer mining lease application

Tony Raggatt, *Townsville Bulletin*, 23/10/2019

Plans by Clive Palmer for a coal and rail project in the Galilee Basin have proceeded with the State Government notifying the public of a mining lease application and environmental authority by the businessman's company Waratah Coal.

Meanwhile, conservationists say they will object to the proposal and trigger a hearing of the Land Court of Queensland to test its approvals.

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/markets/the-russians-are-coming-for-australia-s-coal-markets-20191024-p533r7.html>

## The Russians are coming for Australia's coal markets

Clyde Russell, *SMH*, 24/10/2019

Life is set to get even more difficult for major coal exporters with Russia planning to increase shipments of the fuel and the cost advantages appearing increasingly stacked in its favour.

Russia is already the third-largest supplier to the seaborne market, behind Indonesia and Australia, and is moving to take advantage of its central geographic position to boost exports to both the Atlantic and Pacific basins.

With low mining costs, a state-supported rail system, an expanded port and far lower sea freight charges, Russia's coal exports will be more competitive in Asia than those from Australia.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/dont-extend-coal-power-plants-origin/news-story/f113908b05ba60a0514f2f8d26fd7e4>

## Don't extend coal power plants: Origin

Perry Williams, *Aus*, 25/10/2019

Power giant Origin Energy has warned against extending the life of coal plants without the government providing a “carbon signal” and urged an end to the decade-long energy war to help spur investment and shift the electricity grid towards renewables.

“We need to recognise that coal is the wrong type of generation to firm renewables and extending the life of old coal plants without a strong carbon

signal will extend the uncertainty we are all facing today, while denying the inevitability of the low-emissions future we know we will need to deliver for our customers and the community if we are to minimise the impacts of climate change,” Origin chief executive Frank Calabria will say in a major speech focused on Australia’s path to a 2050 energy market.

<https://www.afr.com/companies/mining/new-chairman-says-south32-will-keep-rightful-voice-in-coal-lobby-20191022-p5337v>

### New chairman says South32 will keep rightful voice in coal lobby

Brad Thompson, AFR, 27/10/2019

South32 chairman Karen Wood says the group is an important “voice for good” in lobby groups such as Coal21 and the NSW Minerals Council, and has declared that coal used for steel making still has a role its portfolio.

Ms Wood suggested South32 had influenced Coal21’s recent commitment to use money for its members to explore technological solutions to climate change and in particular carbon capture and storage.

## OIL & GAS LEAKS

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/comment-isfree/2019/oct/22/australian-plans-to-import-gas-are-expensive-bad-for-the-climate-and-utterly-absurd>

### Australian plans to import gas are expensive, bad for the climate and utterly absurd

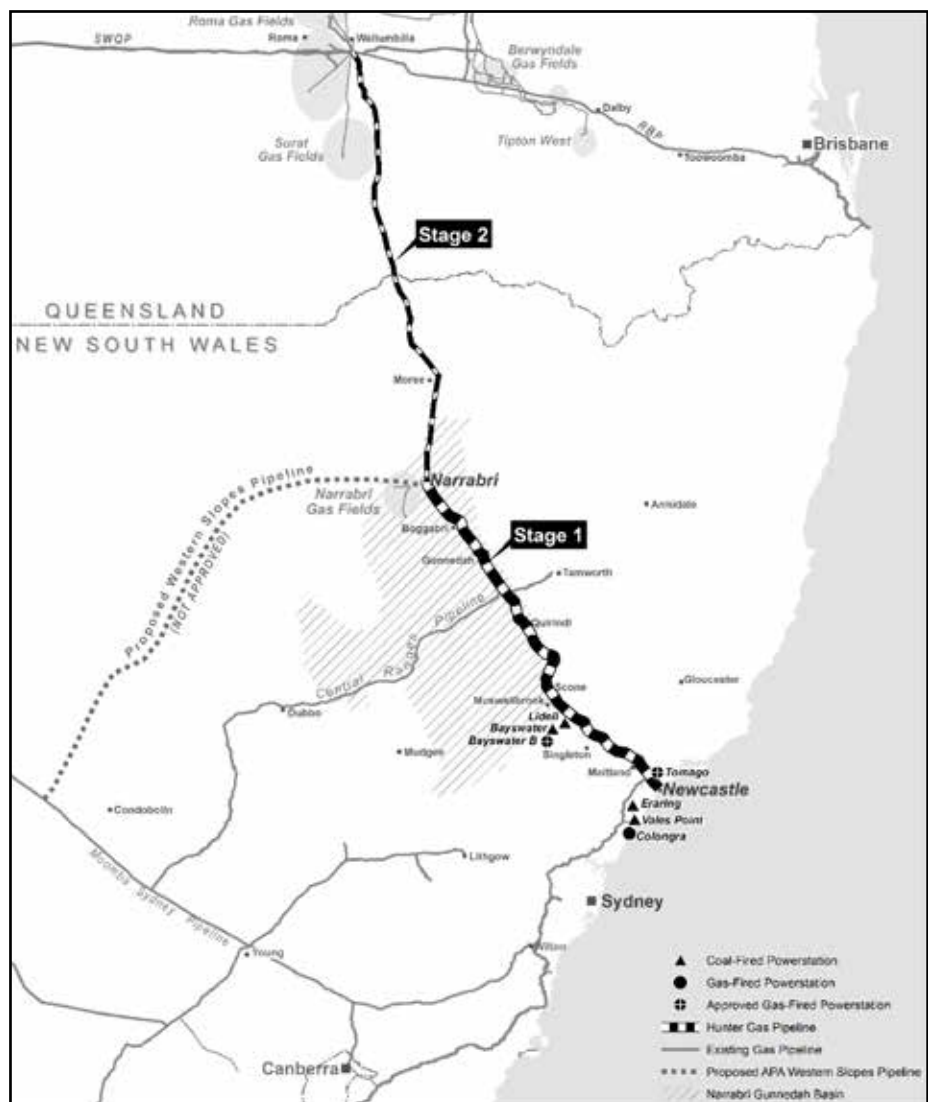
Samantha Hepburn, Guardian, 22/10/2019

Right now, two projects have been proposed to import gas from overseas to supply eastern Australia. This is an absurd prospect. Australia is a resource-rich country, and exports more gas than any other nation. Why then, would we need to ship it in?

The rate of liquified natural gas (LNG) exports from Australia has skyrocketed over the past two decades. In the past 10 years, this coincided with a trebling in the price of gas on the east coast.

The situation points to a dramatic failure of management and regulation. The result is that households are struggling with soaring gas bills, and the future of Australia’s manufacturing sector is at risk.

• **Samantha Hepburn is the director of the Centre for Energy and Natural Resources Law, Deakin Law School, Deakin University**



The Hunter Gas Pipeline will run from Narrabri to Newcastle, but Stage 2 would connect it to the Wallumbilla Hub and the gas export terminals in Gladstone. It is a rival to APA Group’s proposed Western Slopes Pipeline.

<https://www.afr.com/companies/energy/hunter-pipeline-to-slash-costs-of-qld-gas-transport-20191022-p53368>

### Hunter pipeline to slash costs of Queensland gas transport

Angela Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 23/10/2019

A \$1.2 billion pipeline that could cut the cost of transporting gas from Queensland to NSW by 40% won NSW planning approval, offering the hope of cheaper gas in the Newcastle region by the time AGL Energy’s Liddell coal-powered generator closes.

The proposed 820-kilometre Hunter Gas Pipeline would run from Queensland’s gas hub at Wallumbilla, near Roma, to Newcastle, via Moree and the Hunter Valley.

It would run adjacent to Santos’s planned Narrabri coal seam gas project, offering an alternative route to market to APA Group’s Western Slopes pipeline proposal and could supply gas power generation that may help replace Liddell.

Announcing the planning approval, which extends an earlier clearance that had lapsed, the state government described the project as “critical” for the NSW energy sector as it would increase energy security, diversify gas supply and put downward pressure on gas prices.

<https://www.cairnspost.com.au/news/national/war-of-words-in-gas-stoush/news-story/>

### War of words in gas stoush

Hayley Sorensen, NT News, 25/10/2019

A climate scientist has fought back against an attack on his work by the Territory’s gas lobby group.

Griffith University environmental science professor Ian Lowe this month published his analysis of the potential climate impacts of the development of the NT’s gas reserves.

Professor Lowe wrote development of gas reserves in the Beetaloo sub-basin



and McArthur Basin would have a “catastrophic impact on Australia’s efforts to slow climate change”.

Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association NT director Keld Knudsen this week rubbished Professor Lowe’s work ... calling his scenarios “alarming and unrealistic”.

But Professor Lowe said that was a furphy.

“It is just dishonest to claim exporting gas could reduce global emissions by hundreds of millions of tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent a year,” he said.

<https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/gas-deal-between-engie-and-origin-guarantees-four-year-supply-for-pelican-point-power-plant/news-story/>

### **Gas deal between ENGIE and Origin guarantees four-year supply for Pelican Point power plant**

*Chris Russell, Advertiser, 28/10/2019*

The reliability of South Australia’s electricity system has been strengthened with a four-year deal guaranteeing gas supply to the Pelican Point power station.

The deal between energy companies ENGIE and Origin will complement the continued growth of renewable energy in SA.

Pelican Point can fire up quickly to meet gaps when the wind doesn’t blow and the sun doesn’t shine.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/row-erupts-over-excessive-local-gas-prices/news-story/>

### **Gas prices: Row erupts over ‘excessive’ local costs**

*Perry Williams, Aus, 28/10/2019*

A fresh spat over high east coast gas prices has erupted after the national group representing top energy producers disputed new analysis showing Australian users were paying more for gas than customers of its LNG exports in Asia.

Australian consumers were paying 71% more on average for spot gas at the current market price than export “netbacks”, which measure the delivered price of LNG minus the costs of liquefaction and transport, a study from the green-focused Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis found.

However, the national body representing big Queensland gas producers Santos, Origin Energy and Shell disputed the analysis as riddled with “wilful misrepresentations and false claims”.

## **NUKE MADNESS**

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/oct/27/the-most-divisive-thing-two-small-towns-brace-for-a-vote-on-nuclear-waste>

### **‘The most divisive thing’: two small towns brace for a vote on nuclear waste**

*Calla Wahlquist, Guardian, 27/10/2019*

After four years of speculation and three years of consultation, the small towns of Kimba and Hawker in South Australia have begun the final stage of a process that has divided neighbours and placed these otherwise forgotten communities on the national map.

The search for a suitable site has taken more than 30 years. If one or both of the communities vote yes, the resources minister, senator Matt Canavan, could name the final site by the end of the year.

## **CLIMATE CRISIS**

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/oct/22/australia-is-the-only-country-using-carryover-climate-credits-officials-admit>

### **Australia is the only country using carryover climate credits, officials admit**

*Graham Readfern & Adam Morton, Guardian, 22/10/2019*

The federal environment department says it is not aware of any countries other than Australia planning to use controversial “carryover credits” to meet international climate commitments.

Critics say the credits do not represent the emissions reductions needed to help meet the Paris goal of limiting global heating to as close to 1.5C as possible. Instead, they say, the credits are a fudge that cuts what Australia needs to do to meet its 2030 emissions target roughly in half.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/oct/21/leading-engineers-turn-their-backs-on-new-fossil-fuel-projects>

### **Leading Australian engineers turn their backs on new fossil fuel projects**

*Ben Smees, Guardian, 21/10/2019*

Engineering firms are under increased pressure from their own employees to abandon controversial fossil fuel projects, as the sector turns its attention to the climate crisis.

About 1,000 Australian engineers and 90 organisations – including large firms and respected industry figures who have worked with fossil fuel companies – have signed a declaration to “evaluate all new projects against the

environmental necessity to mitigate climate change”.

As the Australian Engineers Declare movement gathers pace, some industry figures say firms that work on Adani’s Carmichael coalmine project face a potential revolt from staff, and might struggle to recruit highly skilled people.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/oct/25/coral-cover-around-popular-great-barrier-reef-islands-has-almost-halved>

### **Coral cover around popular Great Barrier Reef islands has almost halved**

*Graham Readfern, Guardian, 25/10/2019*

Coral coverage around some of the most popular tourist islands on the Great Barrier Reef has dropped by almost half in the last 18 years, according to a new study.

Scientists said they were “shocked” after analysing data from monitoring dives between 1999 and 2017 at 100 different locations across the Whitsunday Islands, Magnetic Island, Keppel Islands and Palm Islands.

Scientists are concerned that major coral bleaching and heat stress events caused by ocean heating will hit the Great Barrier Reef at intervals too short to let corals recover.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/oct/24/teenage-girl-among-20-extinction-rebellion-activists-strip-searched-by-brisbane-police>

### **Teenage girl among 20 Extinction Rebellion activists strip-searched by Brisbane police**

*Ben Smees, Guardian, 24/10/2019*

A 17-year-old girl was among more than 20 Extinction Rebellion activists strip-searched in the Brisbane City police watch house recently during a week of climate protests.

On 9 October, the third day of Extinction Rebellion civil disobedience, a protester had brought a phone undetected into her cell at the watch house and livestreamed video for about 15 minutes to a private Facebook page.

Police warned the woman she would be strip-searched if she was arrested again, but responded the following day by repeatedly searching, then strip-searching, every activist arrested.

One of those activists, a 17-year-old girl, said she had questioned police about whether they had the right to search her.

“I said I’m 17, can you strip-search me?” the girl, who cannot be named for

legal reasons, said. “They said actually it doesn’t matter.

Strip-searches of young music festivalgoers and environmental activists could wake up middle-class Australians to a practice that routinely affects the poor, Indigenous and disadvantaged, a prisoners’ rights advocate said.

Debbie Kilroy, the founder of the organisation Sisters Inside, likened the practice of strip-searching to “sexual assault by the state”.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/most-of-worlds-coal-power-stations-must-close-by-2030-to-meet-paris-target-11310/>

## Most of world’s coal power stations must close by 2030 to meet Paris target

Michael Mazengarb, *Renew Economy*, 21/10/2019

Governments will need to close most of the world’s coal-fired power stations by 2030, and place a halt on the construction of new coal generators, if there is any hope to successfully limit global warming to around 1.5°C, according to new research published in *Nature Communications*.

The research – led by a team from the Center for Global Sustainability based at the University of Maryland – found that to meet the Paris 2°C target, the global coal generation fleet would need to close when plants reach an operating age of 35 years, which contrasts to the Australian government assumption that all coal generators will last 50 years, if not more.

This deadline gets even shorter in a scenario that limits warming to no more than 1.5°C, and shorter still if coal-fired power stations currently under development are allowed to be constructed.

## FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/nsw/nsw-government-says-new-planning-laws-give-certainty-for-mines-20191022-p5334a.html>

## NSW government says new planning laws give certainty for mines

Alexandra Smith, *SMH*, 22/10/2019

The Berejiklian government will introduce laws to stop consent conditions relating to global greenhouse gas emissions from export coal being imposed on NSW mining projects.

Resources Minister John Barilaro said the new laws would prevent overseas greenhouse gas emissions from export coal being considered in local mining decisions.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/oct/22/nsw-to-try-to-stop-mine-projects-being-blocked-because-of-their-overseas-emissions>

## NSW to try to stop mine projects being blocked because of their overseas emissions

Lisa Cox, *Guardian*, 22/10/2019

The NSW government has announced it will introduce legislation to try to stop planning authorities from blocking mine developments based on emissions from coal once it is burned.

The push is a response to the historic Rocky Hill verdict delivered by the NSW Land and Environment court earlier this year and comes just days after the government launched a review of the state’s Independent Planning Commission (IPC).

Environment groups and the legal firm that represented Groundswell Gloucester have described it as a capitulation to the mining industry, which has waged a campaign over recent planning decisions that either rejected mining projects outright or imposed conditions on them related to their impact on the climate.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/oct/24/labor-to-refer-angus-taylor-to-police-over-forged-document-used-to-attack-clover-moore>

## Labor to refer Angus Taylor to police over ‘forged’ document used to attack Clover Moore

Katharine Murphy, *Guardian*, 24/10/2019

Labor is calling for a police investigation into whether a document was forged in Angus Taylor’s office with the purpose of influencing the exercise of duty by the lord mayor of Sydney, Clover Moore.

False figures were used by Taylor’s office to unleash a political attack on Moore last month.

Taylor claimed that Moore had increased carbon emissions by spending \$15m on travel, a claim that was later backed up with a doctored council document provided to the *Daily Telegraph*, which subsequently reported the incorrect figure.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-10-25/angus-taylor-to-apologise-to-sydney-lord-mayor-clover-moore/11641580>

## Angus Taylor to apologise to Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore over ‘not clarifying’ figures

Jade MacMillan, *ABC*, 26/10/2019

Federal Energy Minister Angus Taylor will apologise to Sydney’s Lord Mayor for “not clarifying” figures he used to

criticise her over the council’s travel costs.

A spokesman for Cr Moore said Mr Taylor had not explained where the incorrect figure came from.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/oct/24/queensland-parliament-passes-laws-to-crack-down-on-climate-protesters>

## Queensland parliament passes laws to crack down on climate protesters

Ben Smee, *Guardian*, 24/10/2019

The Queensland parliament has passed new laws that will criminalise “dangerous” locking devices used by climate protesters, and give police expanded powers to search suspected activists.

The state parliament gave its near-unanimous support – 86 votes to one – for the controversial measures.

Earlier, MPs voted down a suite of more extreme amendments proposed by the opposition Liberal National party, including mandatory prison terms for second protest offences.

The Greens MP, Michael Berkman, was the only MP to vote against the laws.

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/albanese-says-labor-must-embrace-wealth-creation-mining-sector-on-way-to-low-carbon-future-20191028-p534y4.html>

## Albanese says Labor must embrace wealth creation, mining sector on way to low-carbon future

Rob Harris, *SMH*, 29/10/2019

Anthony Albanese will use his first major speech as Labor leader to call on his wounded party to be “first and foremost” in “the business of creating wealth” and start talking about job opportunities in renewable industries.

In a further attempt to divorce the federal opposition from five years of attacks on business and “the top end of town”, Mr Albanese will throw his support behind the mining industry in an address in Perth on Tuesday afternoon, saying Australia can cash in on Queensland’s coal exports to help provide the steel to build the world’s wind turbines.

**STOP WATER MINING**  
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**NSW Labor MLC, Adam Searle, is understood to be opposing a push by Labor Treasury spokesperson Walt Secord and Natural Resources spokesperson Paul Scully to support the Narrabri Gas Project and mining in NSW.**  
Photo: PNSW Parliament

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/alp-warned-over-push-for-saunderscorbynista-greenleaning-position/news-story/>

### **ALP warned over 'green-leaning Sanders-Corbynista' push**

*Andrew Clennell, Aus, 28/10/2019*

NSW Labor Treasury spokesman Walt Secord has broken ranks to warn of "a green-leaning Sanders-Corbynista position" that he says some shadow ministers are pushing Labor towards.

The comments also come with Secord and the party's natural resources spokesman Paul Scully pushing for a position internally that is positive on coal-seam gas, including support for the Narrabri Santos proposed project.

In doing so, Secord and Scully are understood to be battling upper house leader, climate change and planning spokesman Adam Searle.

Secord is also fighting internally to ensure the party remains pro-mining.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-government/this-is-fked-matt-canavan-and-scott-morrison-in-brawl/news-story/f6d84f5af3a5de9b1a6fa3777bcf7dd9>

### **This is f--ked': Matt Canavan and Scott Morrison in brawl**

*Renee Viellaris, Courier-Mail, 29/10/2019*

A massive blow-up erupted between Scott Morrison and Matt Canavan – with the fiery Resources Minister overheard yelling, "this is f--ked", in a closed door meeting over a disagreement relating to a Queensland election commitment.

The 20-minute heated exchange in the PM's office in Canberra last Tuesday ended with Senator Canavan all-but being booted out.

The brouhaha was sparked over concerns there was a go-slow imposed by the PM's office on a business case for a new coal-fired generator at Collinsville, in central Queensland. Some in the PM's office view thermal coal as a "sensitive" issue.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-10-29/clean-green-rich-wealthy-donors-climate-200-politicians/11647162>

### **The rich-listers funding politicians who back climate action**

*Stephen Long, ABC, 29/10/2019*

Get out, GetUp! There's a new force working quietly behind the scenes in Australian politics, linked to big money, and headed by the scion of one of Australia's wealthiest families.

The group is an initiative of Simon Holmes a Court and backed by Mike Cannon-Brookes, tech entrepreneur and billionaire co-founder of Atlassian.

In the lead up to the 2019 federal election, Climate 200 raised a tidy sum: nearly half a million dollars.

Most of the money went to independent candidates and crossbench candi-

dates who support strong policy action to limit global warming and promote a transition to clean energy.

It is part of a conscious effort to try and counter the influence of the fossil fuel lobby.

In all, 12 candidates were beneficiaries: the member for Indi, Helen Haines; the member for Mayo, Rebekah Sharkie; Greens MP Adam Bandt; Wentworth candidate Kerry Phelps; former Clean Energy Finance Corporation chief executive Oliver Yates, who stood in Kooyong; as well as Rod Bower, former Liberal Party MP Julia Banks, Anthony Pesec, Huw Kingston, Rob Oakeshott, Alice Thompson and Ray Kingston.

Climate 200 also gave a grant of \$35,000 to former Sydney Morning Herald journalist Margo Kingston's citizen journalism initiative, the No Fibs project.

**F**



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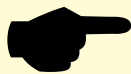
**Account number: 278038**

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

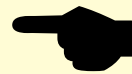
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