



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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Acland court case to be re-heard as New Hope Coal launches media assault

By Eve Sinton

After fighting New Hope Coal for years, the tiny Darling Downs town of Acland was devoured by the New Acland coal mine, while surrounding farmers battled on in court to keep the miners off their land.

The Oakey Coal Action Alliance was disappointed this week when a court ruling appears to have returned the whole case back to square one. It is likely the entire case will have to be re-heard.

The alliance has called for the Queensland government to refuse a groundwater licence for the Acland Stage 3 coal expansion, after the Court of Appeal ruled on Tuesday (September 10) the Land Court did not have the power to consider groundwater impacts from mining.

The Court of Appeal in Brisbane ruled on technical grounds that the legal mechanism for assessing groundwater impacts of mining should be via the water licencing process rather than the grant of an environmental authority.

As a result, the two previous Land Court decisions have also been set aside on other grounds, and the case will have to be re-heard in its entirety.

The appeal court also found Land Court Member Paul Smith's impartiality was compromised when he cited the movie *The Castle* when characterising the fight of a land owner as "little person" trying to protect his property from a "corporate giant".



MAIN PHOTO: New Hope Coal's New Acland mine has devoured farmland and a village, and wants to expand. Photo: Lock the Gate

INSET: A sign on the road to Acland, years ago, foretells the village's fate. Only one resident, and the Acland War Memorial, remain. Photo: Peter Hackney, The Chronicle

Project should have been stopped

Oakey Coal Action Alliance secretary Paul King said the project should never have been allowed to proceed due to the harm it would inflict on local farmers, the environment, and the Oakey economy.

"This is a very difficult outcome for local farmers who have lived with this threat for ten long years and now face more uncertainty due to this technical-

ity, while they struggle with a worsening drought and reduced groundwater supply," he said.

"The farming land around Oakey is classed in the top 1.5% in Queensland. It is madness that it should be destroyed for the sake of a temporary coal mine. This country has been farmed continuously for 150 years and we produce 10million litres of milk each year."

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• P4: WA sacrifices 5m ha to frackers

• P5: 81% worry about droughts, floods

• P5: Adani, activists trade blame for assault

New Hope Coal launches media assault as court disappoints community

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The Environmental Defenders Office Qld has been representing Oakey Coal Action Alliance in court. CEO and Solicitor Jo-Anne Bragg said:

“This is a disappointing result for the local farmers who are seeking to protect their land and their livelihoods at a time of severe drought and fire risk.

“The land around Acland on the Darling Downs is among the best 1.5% of agricultural land in Queensland, and this mine puts the groundwater that supplies that land at risk.

“Now the Court of Appeal has found the Land Court has no jurisdiction to consider groundwater impacts, the community may need to return to court without the ability to argue this critical issue in relation to the mining lease.

“This shows the urgent need for legislative change to clarify the law and ensure groundwater impacts can be properly considered in all mining objections as part of evaluating the costs and benefits.

“This is a crucial issue for farming communities. Without legislative change to cover all mining proposals, Queensland farmers will be left with one hand tied behind their back in the battle to protect their land for their families and future generations of agriculturalists.”

New Hope strikes back

Meanwhile, New Hope Coal unsuccessfully tried to bully the government into approving the mine’s expansion before the court case was completed – giving officials a deadline of midnight, September 7 for the announcement.

When that failed, they started redundancy talks with employees and launched a full-frontal media assault on activists and the Queensland government. Their Murdoch media propaganda campaign that would have been unthinkable a few years ago.

Before the court announced its decision, New Hope had told the *Courier-Mail* that the government’s refusal to approve the New Acland Stage 3 mine, due to the case, created a blueprint for green activists to follow in order to hold up state-significant projects.

Federal coal minister Matt Canavan said the tactics were straight out



ABOVE: When New Hope Coal expanded its New Acland mine into the village, 64 families were moved on and even the church was trucked away. Photo: Lock the Gate

BELOW: As New Hope’s demand for government approval passed a September 7 deadline, the company launched a full-frontal media assault in the *Courier-Mail*.



of activist playbooks that directed ‘foreign-funded anti-coal groups’ to disrupt and delay projects to erode public and political support for the coal industry.

Full page ad, full page sob story

New Hope Group took out a full-page ad in the *Courier-Mail* on September 7 and got a supporting full-page sympathy story in the same paper.

The story was sheer propaganda, interviewing at length two ‘quiet Aus-



tralian’ workers who may lose their jobs. FFB is sympathetic to people losing jobs – but every coal mine runs out of coal eventually, and the jobs are inherently temporary.

The story only presented New Hope’s case, with no mention of why the neighbouring community opposed the expansion, or the serious water issues arising from further mining.

It was rounded out with economic fluff straight out of the Queensland

New Hope Coal launches media assault as court disappoints community

• Continued from p2

Resources Council's playbook. The fact that only 1.2% of jobs in Queensland are provided by coal was overlooked.

"That New Hope is a good corporate citizen is not really a matter of contention," the story said.

New Hope Coal's bad reputation

Yet New Hope Coal has a bad reputation with neighbours for air pollution from mine dust.

Last year it was caught drilling 27 illegal bores outside a designated area and fined \$3,152 – a mere a 20th of the maximum fine for a single infringement.

The company's parent New Hope Group made \$160m in after-tax profit in the six months to January 2019.

Details of the investigation's findings and the fine were never made public – by the state or the miner – and were uncovered in a tranche of documents obtained under Freedom of Information laws by Lock the Gate.

The documents detail how New Hope Group increased production at the mine to meet supply contracts, and that as a result blasting and loading operations were being conducted with 200 metres of adjacent landholders.

New Acland was fined for breaching noise limits at the mine and remains under investigation in relation to allegations it mined outside its approvals.

Media attitude reversed

Back in 2011, Murdoch's *The Australian* took a very different approach to New Hope's ambitions.

Journalist Heather Brown wrote on July 16:

The state government is set to decimate 7,000ha of fertile farmland when it rubber-stamps stage three of the Acland mine, enabling New Hope Coal to more than double its production from four million tonnes to 10 million tonnes a year for the next 20 years.

There are more bad days to come. New Hope Coal and the Toowoomba Regional Council plan to steal the sacred Acland War Memorial from the arms of its community, and they still have to figure out a way to remove local hero Glen Beutel, who refuses to allow his town to disappear under the bulldozers.



TOP: The Knitting Nannas at Acland in 2015. Screengrab: Knitting Nannas

BOTTOM: Acland War Memorial is the last thing standing in town.

Photo: Diane Watson

Brown's story was published after almost all properties in Acland were bought up by the mine operators in 2008, with the intention that they be demolished as the open cut mine expanded into the town site.

The Land reported that 64 families had their community destroyed.

Even the church was ripped off its stumps and trucked away.

Only the Acland War Memorial remains and is cared for by Acland's single remaining resident, Glen Beutel, who refused to sell. Each Anzac Day a service is held, with supporters including a group of Knitting Nannas showing their defiance to the destruction.

The mine ceases work during the service and delivers a floral tribute, but gets a cold shoulder from those present.

Otherwise, it's 24/7 blasting, digging, noise and dust.

But now New Acland's pit has reached the fence, and half of the 300 workers may be retrenched by the end of the year.

The judgment by the Court of Appeal leaves the way forward unclear, with the court asking both sides to file submissions on the next move in the next fortnight.

Taking a lead from Adani, New Hope and its allies are on the war-path, bullying the government and attacking 'greenies'.

It's unlikely, at this time, any Murdoch journalist will write as Heather Brown did, in 2011:

Welcome to Queensland, the place where the "fair go" has gone AWOL and governments, councils and their cronies

collude to make mine-owners richer, and the poor are left to fend for themselves ...

For them, farmers and communities have become inconsequential in the rush for coal and gas royalties and, with a brand of bureaucratic bullying borrowed from the Soviets, farmers have seen their sovereignty stripped while they are driven off their land.

In the current climate, when miners set their own deadlines for approvals and marshal the formidable forces of the Murdoch-dominated media to their cause, there will be no more stirring words like Brown's from 2011.

Even if future court cases favour the community over miners, there will be pressure to change laws and a push for continuing destruction.



WA govt sacrifices 5 million ha to frackers

Area almost the size of Tasmania opened for fracking, and more to come

By Eve Sinton

The McGowan Government has condemned some of Western Australia's best farmland and significant cultural regions to being fracked, with this week's lifting of the fracking moratorium for existing petroleum titles.

Huge swathes of the extremely productive WA Wheatbelt and Mid-West regions, and key sensitive areas and wetlands across the Kimberley, can now be fracked, according to the mapping released by the government.

A spokesperson for Lock the Gate in Western Australia, Jarrad Thomas, said the McGowan Government had failed the people of WA with this decision.

"Fracking poses an unacceptable risk to groundwater, the production of food and fibre, and WA's unique environment," he said.

"The McGowan Government hasn't finished writing the codes of practice, or implemented the WA Fracking Inquiry's recommendations. Nor has it done the community consultation it promised."

Thomas said the lifting of the moratorium had created two classes of citizens – those whose homes and land could be sacrificed to fracking companies, and those who were protected.

"No one and nowhere should be put in a sacrifice zone for fracking," he said.

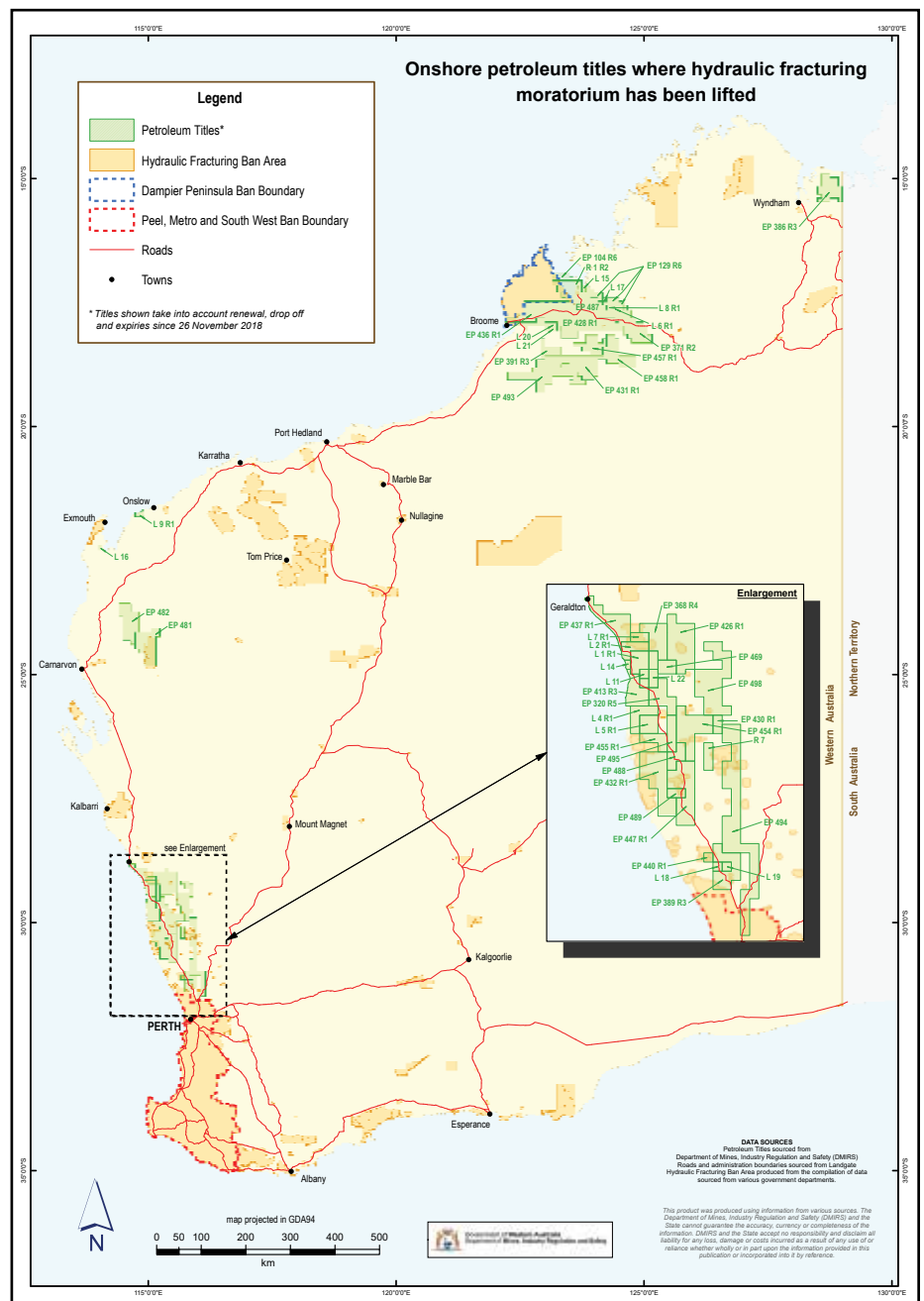
"This announcement means the government has given the green light for greedy gas companies to frack more than five million hectares of land in Western Australia that's an area nearly the size of Tasmania.

Trojan horse for frackers

"We also remain concerned that this announcement is a Trojan Horse to open more of the state to fracking – official bans only cover a very small section of the state.

"But the community resistance to fracking is growing as local people work together to defend their land and water.

"Lock the Gate Alliance condemns this decision in the strongest terms possible, and vows to continue to work alongside communities in the fight against unconventional gasfields in WA."



Acting State Director for The Wilderness Society, Kit Sainsbury, commented: "Predictably this lifting of the moratorium has been met with relatively stunned looks across the faces of the environmental community – let alone for those landholders who suddenly find themselves battling the oncoming gas brigade. Significant concerns remain about how they have landed at this point when their own Implementation Plan is barely out of the starting blocks.

Many key details of how the Government will best manage fracking in our

safe is not due to be concluded by December 2020. How can they progress these proposals safely until all regulations have been implemented?

The WA government said fracking is prohibited within two kilometres of public drinking water sources, in national parks, towns and the Dampier Peninsula.

Traditional owners and farmers can also prevent oil and gas companies from fracking on their land.

Climate of the Nation: 81% worried as droughts, flooding increase

Eight in ten Australians (81%) are now concerned about climate change resulting in more droughts and flooding according to a new benchmark report released this week by the Australia Institute.

The annual Climate of the Nation benchmark report has tracked Australian attitudes on climate change for over a decade. This is the second Climate of the Nation report produced by The Australia Institute, after being produced for a decade by the Climate Institute.

The 2019 Climate of the Nation report, launched by Zali Steggall OAM, Independent Federal Member for Warringham, finds that:

- Eight in ten (81%) Australians are concerned that climate change will result in more droughts and flooding, up from 78% in 2018;
- Majority of Australians (68%) agree that the Government should plan for an orderly phase-out of coal so that workers and communities can be prepared;
- Majority of Australians (54%) reject the idea that Australia should not act on climate change until other major emitters like US and China do so;
- Almost two thirds of Australians (64%) think the country should have a national target for net-zero emissions by 2050, similar to the United Kingdom;
- Most Australians blame increasing electricity prices on the excessive profit margins of electricity companies (57%, up from 55%) or the privatisation of electricity infrastructure (55%, up from 52%).

“This latest report shows that Australians support far more ambitious climate and energy policies than the Federal Government is currently delivering,” said Steggall.

“Australians are rightly concerned about more extreme heat waves, droughts and bushfires and they want the Morrison Government to show

leadership on climate change and do more to prepare for the impacts that are already locked in.”

Richie Merzian, Climate & Energy Director at the Australia Institute, agreed.

“Climate change is driving economic policy, diplomacy and politics in Australia. That is why this benchmark report is more important than ever in 2019,” said Merzian, Climate & Energy Director at the Australia Institute.

“Australians are well aware of what is required, and see addressing climate change as a multi-partisan issue that ought to be above politics. Just look at the United Kingdom which recently legislated a target of net-zero emissions by 2050.

“Ahead of the UN Global Climate Summit in New York in September, the public want to see the Australian Government take a leadership role when it comes to global action on climate change. Most reject the notion that Australia need not act before US or China do.”

• **Download the report here:**

https://www.tai.org.au/sites/default/files/Climate%20of%20the%20Nation%202019%20%5BWEB%5D_0.pdf



FFB

Adani and activists trade blame for assault

By Eve Sinton

Activists from Frontline Action on Coal (FLAC) will formally pursue assault charges against an Adani employee following an incident last week by the Gregory Highway on the site of Adani's rail corridor.

Police have been interviewing three activists over the incident, while Adani says it is assisting with enquiries. Adani claims their security guard was assaulted.

The activists will allege that with no provocation, the employee tackled and wrestled people engaging in non-violent protest. One of the people assaulted, and another who sought to peacefully de-escalate the situation, were then falsely accused of assault. FLAC has lodged a formal complaint with Adani regarding the conduct of the employee.

Will Douglas, a farmer and teacher who is one of the people filing the charges, said “We have done nothing wrong and have nothing to fear from the video footage that Adani wrongly claim documents physical assault and verbal threats. Adani should release that footage if they want to make claims about what it contains.”

“Frontline Action on Coal is committed to the principles of non-violence. Participants are given training in the techniques and principles of peaceful protest that we strictly adhere to in all situations.

“The deceitful actions of Adani in this instance are typical of the bullying tactics of their self-described ‘trained attack dog’ legal strategy. This violent and aggressive strategy is currently being assessed for investigation by the legal services commission.”

Protesters keep up the pressure

FLAC protests against Adani and its contractors in central Queensland have continued almost daily for the last week.

Targets included contractors BMD on the Bruce Highway, Senator George Christensen's Mackay office, Adani's Abbot Point coal terminal, and AC Whalan's Mackay depot.

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Inside the news

Frontline Action on Coal has been busy this week, with almost daily actions at Adani's operations, contractors' premises and politicians' offices (p7), infuriating the company and its political supporters.

The activists have succeeded in annoying contractors **BMD** on the Bruce Highway, Senator **George Christensen's** Mackay office, **Adani's Abbot Point** coal terminal, and **AC Whalan's** Mackay depot. Well done!

Chinese-backed gas company **West-Side Corp** wants more government money if they're to supply the domestic market (p9), modelled on Matt Canavan's **NAIF** slush fund.

Japan's **Tepeco** wants to dump millions of tonnes of radioactive contaminated water into the sea as it runs out of storage space at **Fukushima** (p10). Meanwhile, **Helen Caldicott** describes how the Small Modular Reactors favoured by some Australian nuke-fans present the **same old disaster recipes** as old-fashioned large reactors.

The climate crisis occupied much attention this week as unprecedented **bushfires** raged across NSW and Qld (p11-12), but PM **Scott Morrison** isn't prepared to face up to the next major **UN climate meeting**. Morrison will be in the US for a State Dinner with **Donald Trump** at the time of the meeting, but will send **Marise Payne** and **Patrick Suckling** along while he schmoozes with **The Orange One**.

Australia's minister for drought, natural disasters, farming and water – **David Littleproud** – flip-flopped between not knowing if climate change is man-made, and two days later saying he has 'always' believed it's man-made (p13). Either way, he's not planning on doing much about it.

Labor is deeply internally divided over climate change policy, apart from making 'meaningful' cuts to greenhouse gas emissions (p14).

With **fossil fuels** providing 94% of Australia's energy needs (p14) the need for Labor to come up with effective policies has never been greater. The **Coalition** certainly isn't making progress, and is likely to go backwards.

In the news this week

This week Fossil Fool Bulletin has summarised 27,400 words of news for your convenience. [Click on the links](#) to view original articles. (Subscriptions may be required)

THE ADANI SAGA

<https://insidestory.org.au/is-adani-playing-for-time/>

Is Adani still playing for time?

John Quiggin, *Inside Storey*, 06/09/2019

The recent rhetoric of Adani and its backers suggests the project ought to be well under way by now, with thousands of jobs on offer. In reality, Adani has advertised just 25 jobs over the past month (as at 5 September), according to the company's jobs portal, and no more than one hundred since the election, not even enough to offset cuts made last year.

It may be that pressure to stop new coal projects has left Adani without partners for crucial parts of its work.

A final possibility is that the ultimate owner, Gautam Adani, is still playing for time, hoping to extract yet more government support before committing billions of dollars of his own money to a project that can't possibly be sustained in commercial terms.

Without more financial support from Australian governments, it's hard to see the project paying off.

• *John Quiggin is a Senior Fellow at the University of Queensland.*

<https://www.newsclick.in/jharkhand-construction-adani-godda-plant-villagers-dejected>

Jharkhand: Construction begins in Adani's Godda plant, villagers dejected

Sumedha Pal, *Newslick*, 07/09/2019

"The work on the Adani plant is going in full swing. There was no question of stalling of any work as the government is backing up the project completely. The Chinese company has arrived and over a thousand workers are on the ground. Meanwhile, thousands have lost their lands despite rallying against the administration consistently year after year," Vivek from the Jharkhand Jan Adhikar Mahasabha says while talking about the Adani plant in Godda.

The company has set up the plant by forcefully acquiring over a thousand acres of land spread across 10 villages of two blocks of Godda. Many on the ground suggest that this includes forceful acquisition of 50 acres of 40 families against their wishes. Moreover, the company with the support



Frontline Action on Coal protested outside Nationals' Senator George Christensen's Mackay office, in support of more protesters who locked on to machinery at Adani's Abbot Point coal terminal on September 11. Photo: FLAC

of the local police, bulldozed standing crops, several trees, burial ground and ponds across 15 acres.

<https://www.thesaturdaypaper.com.au/news/politics/2019/09/07/part-two-second-adani-blockade-established/15677784008704>

Second Adani blockade established

Anna Krien, *Saturday Paper*, 07/09/2019

Adrian Burragubba [and other Wangan & Jagalingou people] are on a parcel of land over which the Queensland government quietly extinguished native title rights last week.

Legally speaking, this means that, in the eyes of the state, the 1385 hectares of embattled land in the Galilee Basin where Adani plans to put its critical infrastructure is no longer Indigenous land.

As for where the proposed coalmine is to be located, when mining is complete in 60 or so years, the W&J people are welcome to it.

Strategically, their camp is placed on one of the most integral pieces of the Adani puzzle, where the mining company intends to build its critical infrastructure: the workers' camp, airport, telecommunications towers and industrial area.

Which is exactly why native title needed to be vanquished.

The question now is: Who is occupying the land?

Is it the six W&J families on the council? Or is it Adani, with the consent of six other W&J families?

Or is it, essentially, the state?

"This is between us and the state," says Murrawah Johnson. "This camp is about making sure people see that our conflict is with the state.

"Adani, Palmer, those people come and go. But the state has been doing this to us since the 1860s, forcibly removing our people and then giving our land away without our consent."

Last year, senior barrister Tony McAvooy, often described as Australia's first "Indigenous silk", said the native title system "embeds racism". McAvooy is a W&J man, aligned with Burragubba to stop the Adani coalmine. Arguing the case for native title reform, McAvooy has pointed to the duress put on traditional owners to either cede in negotiations or risk losing their claim to Country, along with any compensation that may accompany that loss.

With legal avenues exhausted, Burragubba, along with other W&J families, are now on Country. Johnson says they are bringing back people who "haven't been on Country since the old people were removed in the early 1900s.

"We want to re-establish ourselves as strong people. Some of us have been vulnerable, taken advantage of, and we want to bring back ceremony and culture."



Thirty concerned citizens formed a picket line on September 9 in support of 20 year old Lisa Amato, who locked herself to the gate of Mackay piping company AC Whalan, thought to be working for Adani. Photo: FLAC

Cato Galilee, the fund said to be holding \$1.1 million in Adani payments, it is now insolvent. In December last year, Irene Simpson was referred to the Australian Securities and Investments Commission to investigate whether she had committed offences while overseeing the Indigenous group's trust fund.

<https://www.echo.net.au/2019/09/stop-adani-action-piping-company/>

Stop Adani action at piping company

Echonet Daily, 09/09/2019

The Mackay office of piping company AC Whalan is in lockdown this morning as they come under pressure to withdraw their tender from Adani's controversial Carmichael mine.

Thirty concerned citizens have formed a picket line in support of 20 year old Lisa Amato, who has locked herself to the gate of the facility.

<https://www.afr.com/companies/mining/price-slump-threatens-viability-of-coal-projects-20190909-p52pbq>

Price slump threatens viability of coal projects

Peter Ker, AFR, 10/09/2019

Billions of dollars worth of Australian coal projects are under threat as slumping prices render about 19 per cent of the world's existing seaborne thermal coal supply loss-making.

Adani's Carmichael and Whitehaven's Vickery mine projects were lucrative proposals in mid-2018 when thermal coal prices soared to six-year highs, [but] analysts say a sharp slump in prices has challenged the projects' viability.

<https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/national/queensland/anti-adani-action-described-as-most-dangerous-protest-yet-20190911-p52q74.html>

Anti-Adani action described as 'most dangerous' protest yet

Felicity Caldwell, Bris Times, 11/09/2019

Environmental activists have been accused of staging the most "dangerous protest activity" to date at the Abbot Point coal terminal.

Four protesters disrupted the Adani-operated coal terminal near Bowen early on Wednesday morning, with two of the protesters allegedly locking themselves onto coal-loading infrastructure.

Abbot Point Operations CEO Dwayne Freeman said one of the protesters could have been killed or seriously injured, and alleged that he crawled underneath an operating ship-loading conveyor belt.

Police arrested and charged four people who are due to appear in Bowen Magistrates Court on September 15.

Activists also gathered outside federal MP George Christensen's office in Mackay on Wednesday morning, in support of the Abbot Point protesters.

COAL ROCKS ON

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/national/new-acland-accuses-palaszczuk-government-of-arming-mine-activists/news-story/304f955abda8e4fb1220008a7da7659>

New Acland accuses Palaszczuk government of arming mine activists

Jessica Marszalek & Michael Wray, Courier-Mail, 06/09/2019

The Queensland Government's refusal to approve a coalmine due to a court case has created a "blueprint" for

green activists to follow in order to hold up state-significant projects, New Hope Coal says.

Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk has promised to abide by an "imminent" Court of Appeal decision around the controversial New Acland Stage 3 mine, but the company says that's a cop-out, and creates a bad precedent following its 12-year wait for state government approvals.

New Hope Group chief development officer Ben Armitage said, "The State Government's decision to hide behind the Court of Appeals is weak and disrespectful to the judiciary".

"Whenever we get these approvals ... someone's going to appeal those approvals," Armitage said.

"So, it's a blueprint for the activists.

Federal Resources Minister Matt Canavan said, "These foreign funded anti-coal groups have explicitly said that they will use our court systems to delay coal projects".

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/opinion/acland-coal-miners-left-pondering-a-jobless-future/news-story/f1ed4f9c2d34daeb7d672b1e920eac0a>

Acland coal miners left pondering a jobless future

Michael Madigan, Courier-Mail, 07/09/2019

Direct descendants of Bob Menzies' "Forgotten People," first cousins to Richard Nixon's "Silent Majority," the Quiet Australians always seems to find employment somewhere.

Madigan continues with a full-page propaganda story about New Hope's Acland mine, interviewing workers who may lose their jobs because the Queensland government hasn't approved the mine's expansion into prime agricultural land.

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/crime-and-justice/court-sends-new-acland-coalmine-back-to-square-one/news-story/>

Court sends New Acland coalmine back to square one

Michael Wray, Kay Dibben & Domanii Cameron, Courier-Mail, 10/09/2019

About 150 coalmining jobs remain in limbo after Queensland's highest court said a decision in a protracted legal battle had been "infected" by a judge's "extreme and irrational" feelings towards the project.

The Court of Appeal today indicated it would send an application to expand the New Acland coalmine back to the Land Court, which originally recommended that a new mining lease be rejected. The Appeal Court said Land

Court Member Paul Smith's impartiality was compromised when he cited the movie *The Castle* when characterising the fight of a land owner as "little person" trying to protect his property from a "corporate giant".

<https://www.afr.com/companies/mining/future-of-new-hope-s-acland-mine-expansion-unclear-20190910-p52pwm>

Future of New Hope's Acland mine expansion unclear

Mark Ludlow, AFR, 10/09/2019

The future of New Hope Group's \$900 million New Acland coal mine expansion remains up in the air, despite a Queensland court throwing out an appeal by Oakey farmers to stop the controversial project.

But the judgment by the Court of Appeal in Brisbane has left all parties unclear about the way forward, with the court asking both sides to file submissions in the next fortnight on the next move.

There were some fears the project could be back to square one and have to seek both a new environmental authority from the Department of Environment and Science and mining lease from the Land Court.

The appeal was brought by the Oakey Coal Action Alliance who were challenging the impact of the mine expansion on groundwater.

<https://www.theage.com.au/politics/queensland/approve-darling-downs-mine-to-save-jobs-canavan-20190911-p52qfl.html>

Approve Darling Downs mine to save jobs: Canavan

Aaron Bunch, Age, 11/09/2019

Federal Resources Minister Matt Canavan has called on the Queensland government to immediately approve a controversial coal mine expansion to save workers' jobs.

On Wednesday, Canavan said Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk should step in to fix the "green lawfare debacle".

He said the expansion would extend the mine's life until 2031 and boost annual production from 5.2 million tonnes to 7.5 million tonnes.

"The mine currently employs 300 workers and the planned expansion would secure those jobs and create even more for the region," he said in a statement.

OIL & GAS LEAKS

<https://www.afr.com/companies/energy/gas-find-off-victoria-lifts-hopes-for-supply-from-late-2021-20190906-p52ola>

Gas find off Victoria lifts hopes for supply from late 2021

Angela Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 06/09/2019

A new gas find made off the coast of Victoria close to existing production infrastructure has raised hopes of an increased supply of gas for energy-short state within little more than two years.

While not on the scale of the large Bass Strait fields, the Annie-1 discovery made by partners Cooper Energy and Mitsui about 9 kilometres off the coast lies near an existing pipeline and gas plant, offering the potential for relatively rapid development.

<https://www.afr.com/companies/energy/lng-harvest-time-sows-seeds-for-the-next-cycle-20190908-p52p6l>

LNG harvest time sows seeds for the next cycle

Matthew Stevens, AFR, 09/09/2019

With the rich bounty acquired through the now exhausted boom in liquid natural gas investment being harvested with ever more productive efficiency there is emerging hope that explorers are laying new foundations for the next investment cycle.

The last financial year brought record petroleum production, record gas production, record LNG production, record east coast gas production, record coal seam gas production and a new high for domestic gas production in Western Australia.

The only blip on the radar of success in 2018-19 was a six per cent fall in gas production aimed at domestic markets on the crisis-gripped east coast. It is worth noting though that this appears to be the product of a decline in demand from the power generation sector in particular.

Turning around investment in oil and gas is good for the economy and one of the easiest and cheapest ways of stimulating it is to remove restrictions on development.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/accc-blasts-gas-pipe-operators/news-story/>

ACCC blasts gas pipe operators

Perry Williams, Aus, 10/09/2019

Australia's competition regulator has lashed gas pipeline operators for poor price disclosure amid a broader

government probe that is considering regulatory changes to ease pressures on the east coast market.

The Australian Competition & Consumer Commission said the prices pipeline owners were required to publish may be confusing for customers and may be contributing to poor outcomes where tariff negotiations become tied up in arbitration.

The cost of moving gas around the nation's pipeline infrastructure often accounts for up to a third of the cost of gas for customers. The nature of the pipeline network means there is little pricing competition.

The federal government is considering separate gas market reforms under a deal struck with Centre Alliance senator Rex Patrick including potential changes to the pipeline industry.

Mr Patrick said he expected to hold talks with Resources Minister Matt Canavan later this month on the broader gas market reset including potential pipeline changes and any tweaks to the Australian Domestic Gas Security Mechanism.

<https://www.afr.com/companies/energy/landbridge-arm-calls-for-naif-style-fund-for-east-coast-gas-20190910-p52pyp>

Landbridge arm calls for NAIF-style fund for east coast gas

Angela Macdonald-Smith, AFR, 11/09/2019

Queensland gas producer WestSide Corporation is calling for a government-backed debt fund for east coast gas to encourage more domestic supply without compromising the LNG export sector.

Matt Wallach, chief commercial officer of WestSide, owned by China's Landbridge, said a fund styled on the Morrison government's \$5 billion Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF) but targeted for domestic gas projects would be of interest to smaller ventures that have difficulty accessing bank debt and for which other debt is too expensive.

It would spur competition between suppliers and so should help on prices in the tight east coast market, said Mr Wallach, who intends to discuss the idea with Federal Resources Minister Matthew Canavan and test support for it among fellow gas producers and industry groups.

LEIGH CK STINK

<https://smallcaps.com.au/leigh-creek-energy-concept-study-confirms-viability-fertiliser-production/>

Leigh Creek Energy concept select study confirms viability of fertiliser production

Danica Cullinane, Smallcaps, 10/09/2019

Emerging syngas producer Leigh Creek Energy has realised a key component of its commercialisation plans for its South Australian namesake project, announcing the finalised concept select study by Thyssenkrupp.

According to Leigh Creek, the study confirms the company can viably build a plant capable of producing urea that will compete with the world's lowest cost urea producers.

The urea plant design by Thyssenkrupp in the concept select study has been built, commissioned and is in operation in several locations around the world, Leigh Creek said.

According to the company, its Leigh Creek energy project (LCEP) will "provide syngas into its fertiliser plant for a fraction of the cost of current natural gas producers".

This is thanks to the company's cost-competitive advantage of being able to provide syngas feedstock from the ground in-situ, compared to the traditional process by manufacturing urea companies of buying expensive natural gas then converting it to syngas.

• *Thyssenkrupp AG is a German multinational conglomerate with focus on industrial engineering and steel production. It insists on spelling its name without a capital T.*

NUKE MADNESS

<https://independentaustralia.net/politics/politics-display/helen-caldicott-small-modular-reactors--same-nuclear-disasters.13087>

Small modular reactors – same nuclear disasters

Dr Helen Caldicott, Independent Australia, 09/09/2019

Now that the "nuclear renaissance" seems dead and buried following the Fukushima catastrophe (one-sixth of the world's nuclear reactors were closed after the accident), the corporations invested in making nuclear plants and radioactive waste – including Toshiba, Nu-Scale, Babcock and Wilcox, GE Hitachi, General Atomics and the Tennessee Valley Authority – are not to be defeated.

Their new strategy is to develop small modular reactors (SMR), which can

be sold around the world without, they say, the dangers inherent in large reactors – safety, cost, proliferation risks and radioactive waste.

There are basically three types of SMRs which generate less than 300 megawatts of electricity compared to the current 1,000-megawatt reactors.

Caldicott goes on to discuss light water reactors, high-temperature gas-cooled reactors, and liquid fast metal reactors – including all the things that can go wrong.

Some models provide the perfect plan for nuclear weapons proliferation and despite this danger, the industry plans to sell them to many countries.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-09-11/fukushima-japan-may-have-to-dump-radioactive-water-into-the-sea/11498450>

Fukushima: Japan may have to dump radioactive water into the sea, environment minister says

ABC, 11/09/2019

The operator of the destroyed Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant will have to dump radioactive water into the Pacific Ocean as it runs out of room to store it, the environment minister has said.

Tokyo Electric Power, or Tepco, has collected more than a million tonnes of contaminated water from the cooling pipes used to keep fuel cores from melting since the plant was crippled by an earthquake and tsunami in 2011.

"The only option will be to drain it into the sea and dilute it," the minister, Yoshiaki Harada, told a news briefing.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/the-advanced-nuclear-power-sector-is-fuelling-climate-change-and-wmds-40205/>

The 'advanced' nuclear power sector is fuelling climate change, and WMDs

Jim Green, Renew Economy, 11/09/2019

The Australian parliament's 'inquiry into the prerequisites for nuclear energy in Australia' is shaping up to be another epic fail.

The premise of the inquiry is that "new technologies in the field are leading to cleaner, safer and more efficient energy production."

But the 'advanced' nuclear sector isn't advanced. The next 'advanced' reactor to commence operation will be Russia's floating nuclear power plant, designed to help exploit fossil fuel reserves in the Arctic – fossil fuel reserves that are more accessible because of climate change.

That isn't 'advanced' – it is dystopian.

Fossil fuels provide the surest route to catastrophic climate change; nuclear warfare provides the quickest route.

Most of the handful of small modular reactors (SMRs) under construction are over-budget and behind schedule; there are disturbing connections between SMRs, weapons proliferation and militarism more generally; and about half of the SMRs under construction are intended to be used to facilitate the exploitation of fossil fuel reserves.

• *Dr Jim Green is the national nuclear campaigner with Friends of the Earth Australia and editor of the Nuclear Monitor newsletter.*



Tanks of radioactive water at Fukushima. Photo: Daisuke Suzuki

CLIMATE CRISIS

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2019/sep/09/climate-crisis-human-rights-un-michelle-bachelet-united-nations>

Climate crisis is greatest ever threat to human rights, UN warns

Agence France-Press/Guardian, 10/09/2019

Climate change is not only having a devastating impact on the environments we live in, but also on respect for human rights globally, the UN has warned.

The UN rights chief, Michelle Bachelet, cited the civil wars sparked by a warming planet and the plight of indigenous people in an Amazon ravaged by wild-fires and rampant deforestation.

She also denounced attacks on environmental activists, particularly in Latin America, and the abuse aimed at high-profile figures such as the teenage campaigner Greta Thunberg.

“The world has never seen a threat to human rights of this scope,” she told the UN human rights council in Geneva.

The UN rights chief also highlighted the impact climate change is having on insecurity around the world. She cited a UN estimate that 40% of civil wars over the past six decades have been linked to environmental degradation.

In the Sahel region of Africa for instance, degradation of arable land “is intensifying competition for already scarce resources”, she said. This in turn exacerbates ethnic tensions, and fuels violence and political instability, she added.

<https://www.theage.com.au/environment/climate-change/extreme-heat-a-far-greater-threat-for-most-australians-than-extreme-cold-weather-study-finds-20190909-p52ph1.html>

Extreme heat a far greater threat for most Australians than extreme cold weather, study finds

Peter Hannam, Age, 10/09/2019

Extreme heat is a far greater threat for most Australians than extreme cold weather, with the risks falling largely on the elderly.

Research published in the *Climatic Change* journal examined the deaths of 1.717 million Australians between 2006-2017. It found about 2% were attributable to heat, while “close to zero” were caused by cold days, said Thomas Longden, a senior researcher at the University of Technology, Sydney, and author of the paper.

Only in the climate zone characterised by mild to warm summers and cold



A bushfire sunset viewed from FFB's verandah during days of disastrous fires in the Northern Rivers this week.

Photo: Eve Sinton

winters – Tasmania and the alpine regions of NSW, Victoria and the ACT – were more deaths associated with cold than heat, he said.

In regions with hot, humid summers – such as Townsville, Cairns and Darwin – as many as 9% of deaths were related to heat.

<https://www.smb.com.au/national/nsw/fires-are-burning-where-they-never-used-to-burn-20190909-p52pnn.html>

Fires are burning where they never used to burn

Greg Mullins, SMH, 10/09/2019

As northern NSW and southern Queensland burn, there has been much discussion about an “early” bushfire season. Unfortunately, this is our new normal. While the official NSW bushfire season has always been from October 1 to March 31, long term records show that fire seasons now start much earlier, and last longer.

The number of days of Very High fire danger and above are also increasing. This is a clear long-term trend, driven by the warming and drying effects of climate change. It is not conjecture, but established fact, verified by the CSIRO, the Bureau of Meteorology, and the Bushfire/Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre.

Firefighters need a lot more help in the form of deliberate action on climate change to slow down the climate emergency, more federal funding for specialist equipment like large fire-fighting aircraft, and a stop to cuts that affect the firefighting capabilities of

agencies like the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

• *Greg Mullins, former Fire and Rescue Commissioner NSW.*

<https://www.news.com.au/technology/environment/climate-change/in-for-a-roasting-australia-on-brink-of-apocalyptic-conditions/news-story/>

'In for a roasting': Australia 'on brink' of 'apocalyptic' conditions

Jamie Seidel, News.com, 11/09/2019

The Arctic is on fire. Now, Antarctica is suddenly experiencing a heatwave. And that means a looming rainfall apocalypse for Australia.

It's producing a domino effect.

The stratospheric 'polar vortex' has been disrupted. It could even reverse direction.

It's pushing stormy Southern Ocean wind streams over Tasmania, New Zealand's South Island and South America's Patagonia. This is away from its regular route over the Australian mainland.

And that means NSW and southern Queensland – already in parts devastated by bushfires so early in the season – are set to face worsening conditions and an even more catastrophic bushfire season.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/sep/10/i-never-thought-id-see-the-australian-rainforest-burning-what-will-it-take-for-us-to-wake-up-to-the-climate-crisis>

I never thought I'd see the Australian rainforest burning. What will it take for us to wake up to the climate crisis?

Joëlle Gergis, Guardian, 10/09/2019

These days as a climate scientist, the line of separation between the research I do in my professional life and the events unfolding in the world at large is growing ever thinner.

The extreme events that our community has been talking about for decades are now becoming part of our lived experience, season after season, year after year across the entire planet. What we are seeing play out now is much faster than many of us ever imagined.

Right now there are about 80 fires in Queensland and a further 60 blazes raging through New South Wales. The maps show the east coast terrifyingly lit up like a grotesque Christmas tree.

Perhaps it shouldn't come as a surprise, given about 98% of NSW and 65% of Queensland is currently drought affected. Many regional towns

like Stanthorpe are coming close to running out of water.

The human fingerprint on Australian temperatures has been clearly detected since 1950. This means that all natural variability is now being modified by human influences on the climate system, leading to changes in observed climate variability and extremes.

Since the 1970s, there has been an increase in extreme fire weather, and a longer fire season, across large parts of the country.

Despite being one of the worst bushfires in Australian history, alarmingly, the Victorian Black Saturday bushfires of 2009, which killed 173 people, destroyed around 2,000 homes and incinerated millions of plants and animals, didn't serve as a wake-up call.

The deeper we sink into denial, the more we commit ourselves to a reality where our children learn about environmental icons such as the Great Barrier Reef and our magnificent rainforests through history books, instead of being able to experience their wonder for themselves.

• *Dr Joëlle Gergis is an award-winning climate scientist and writer based at the Australian National University. She is a lead author of the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment report, and an expert advisor to the Climate Council.*

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/silicon-valley-of-solar-nsw-to-set-interim-carbon-reduction-targets-20190908-p52p6d.html>

'Silicon Valley of solar': NSW to set interim carbon reduction targets

Peter Hannam, SMH, 08/09/2019

NSW will set interim carbon reduction targets to guide its economy to net-zero emissions by 2050 in the latest sign the Berejiklian government plans to beef up its climate change action.

The government will emphasise how efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions – the primary cause for global heating – can generate economic growth by fostering new industries while also cutting cost-of-living expenses.

Energy and Environment Minister Matt Kean said, "Australian scientists are global leaders in solar efficiency and there is no reason why we can't be the Silicon Valley of clean technology".

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-09-11/government-appears-unprepared-for-climate-change/11492886>

The country's top bureaucrats say Government appears unprepared for climate change

Michael Slezal & Michael McKinnon, ABC, 11/09/2019

The most powerful bureaucrats in Australia have been wargaming to prepare the country for "national-scale systemic climate risks" that could impact "the full spectrum of human activity" and are already "overwhelming" the country's ability to respond.

The ABC can reveal a group called "the Secretaries Group on Climate Risk" began meeting in March 2017.

It includes some of the country's most senior military figures as well as the heads of the federal government's biggest departments.

The group conducted a set of exercises called "Project Climate Ready", in which the government chiefs wargamed future scenarios that it is expected could occur because of climate change.

Despite the group planning several meetings throughout 2018, it has not met since March of that year.

The minutes from the meetings noted extreme weather was already "overwhelming" the country's ability to respond to climatic events. As examples, they noted:

- The Melbourne asthmas storm, in which 10 people died.
- The South Australian blackout, which resulted in the entire state being plunged into darkness.
- The convergence of floods and bushfires in Tasmania.

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/world/2019/09/12/scientists-warn-un-were-pushing-our-planet-to-the-very-brink-of-doom/>

Scientists warn UN: We're pushing our planet to the very brink of doom

AAP/New Daily, 12/09/2019

The human race is rushing towards extinction unless the global community addresses growing inequality and the ravages of climate change, some of the world's leading scientists have told the United Nations.

The bleak assessment report was released ahead of a sustainable goals summit scheduled at the United Nations for later this month.

"Overall, the picture is a sobering one," said Shantanu Mukherjee, policy chief

at the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

"One element of this is increasing inequality Another is the pace at which nature is being degraded by human activity, whether it is climate change or biodiversity loss."

Countries must put into practice ways to address vast gaps in wealth distribution and access to economic opportunities and technological advances that undermine innovation and economic growth, the report said.

The report called on nations to focus on food and energy production and distribution, consumption and urban growth to find ways of building sustainable development.



PM Scott Morrison, pictured commenting on this week's bushfires, won't be attending the UN climate summit.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/sep/12/scott-morrison-wont-attend-un-climate-summit-despite-being-in-the-us>

Scott Morrison won't attend UN climate summit despite being in the US

Katharine Murphy, Guardian, 12/09/2019

Scott Morrison will not attend the UN climate action summit despite him being in America to visit the Trump administration at the time – deploying the foreign minister, Marise Payne, and the Australian ambassador for the environment, Patrick Suckling, instead.

While the criticism of the government's current policy offering on climate change is persistent from a range of stakeholders, Morrison declared in parliament on Wednesday Australia had no case to answer. "We are doing our heavy lifting. We are setting our targets. We are meeting our targets. We have the programs in place."



Australia's minister for drought and natural disasters, David Littleproud, says he doesn't know if climate change is manmade, then changed his mind. Screenshot: ABC

FOSSIL POLITICS

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/mining-back-in-favour-with-getup-on-the-nose/news-story/326a22daae04bd8d6d75f530cb0e6b7b>

Mining back in favour as GetUp takes a dive

Geoff Chambers, Aus, 11/09/2019

New polling reveals a growing negative sentiment against GetUp, which targeted Coalition MPs at the May 18 election, and a spike in net support for the mining industry up to 55% across the nation, compared with 46% in May last year.

Research released by the Minerals Council of Australia, which polled 1,000 people between July 17 and 23, with half of those surveyed in regional Australia, showed increases in support for the mining industry among the 18-34 age group and residents in Victoria, NSW and South Australia.

Opposition to mining has dropped to its lowest level in recent years, down from 13% in March to 10% in July.

The polling, commissioned to test the effectiveness of the MCA's "There's more to Australian mining" campaign, showed there had been cut-through to younger Australians and middle-aged women.

Liberal Party polling also reflects a shift in sentiment towards GetUp's claims of "independence" with half of Australians regarding the left-wing activist group as working mostly or entirely in the interests of Labor and the Greens.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/sep/10/david-littleproud-australian-minister-disaster-climate-change-man-made>

Australian natural disasters minister David Littleproud: 'I don't know if climate change is manmade'

Paul Karp, Guardian, 11/09/2019

Australia's minister responsible for drought and natural disasters, David Littleproud, has said that he doesn't "know if climate change is manmade".

He told *Guardian Australia* he was unsure about the causes of the climate crisis but wanted to give the country the tools to adapt.

Littleproud's position was supported by the Nationals deputy leader, Bridget McKenzie, the minister for resources and northern Australia, Matt Canavan, and the environment minister, Sussan Ley, all of who denied knowledge of or downplayed the link.

The overall fire danger index has increased for most of southern Australia over the past 40 years and the Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre says the trend is expected to continue.

Canavan said the Liberal-National Coalition supported "sensible responses to climate change that included support for the high-quality coal and gas that we produce in this country". "It is through the high-quality production of energy that we will respond to climate change and reduce emissions," he said.

Several other Coalition MPs raised the issue of insurance in north Queensland, which has seen premium rises of between 300% and 500%, with insurers warning it is no longer profitable to insure areas including Townsville.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/sep/12/australian-natural-disasters-ministers-complete-about-face-i-believe-in-climate-science>

Australian natural disasters minister's complete about face: 'I believe in climate science'

Katharine Murphy & Paul Karp, Guardian, 12/09/2019

Australia's minister responsible for drought and natural disasters, David Littleproud, now says he accepts the science on manmade climate change, and "[I] always have".

Littleproud's comments to the House of Representatives on Thursday were entirely at odds with a written statement he made to *Guardian Australia* on Tuesday. In response to questions, Littleproud said: "I don't know if climate change is man-made."

Asked why he had stepped around the human contribution to climate change given expert scientific advice on the increased frequency of really bad fire days, Littleproud's office supplied a written answer attributable to the minister: "I don't know if climate change is man-made."

Later on Tuesday, Littleproud told Sky News in response to a question from the network's political editor, David Speers, about whether manmade climate change was real: "I am going to be honest with you – I don't have an opinion."

But Littleproud launched a complete about-face in parliament on Thursday, saying: "I accept the science on manmade impact on climate change. Always have."

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/nsw-government-will-legislate-to-embrace-new-coal-mines-and-keep-coalfired-power-stations-going/news-story/b770e2e-76ae2a81ab4cc08d9b2230051>

NSW government will legislate to embrace new coal mines and keep coal-fired power stations going

Anna Caldwell, Daily Telegraph, 10/09/2019

The state government is prepared to legislate to embrace new coal mines and prolong the life of coal fired power stations in a move which will anger greens but ensure power supply.

At the same time, energy Minister Matt Kean will back electric vehicles with a secret NSW emissions reduction plan to consider investing in electric vehicle technology, including charging stations and stamp duty discounts as the state commits to a target of net zero emissions by 2050.

Kean confirmed he was willing to legislate to ensure a longer term

coal supply and said his priority was keeping power prices down – even as the state pursues ambitious emissions reduction targets.

“The people of NSW want to protect the environment but not at any cost to their hip pocket,” he said.

Pointing specifically to Mount Piper in the Lithgow region, Mr Kean said: “I won’t rule out legislation to secure their coal”.

<https://www.afr.com/politics/federal/labor-all-at-sea-on-climate-change-policy-20190912-p52qgx>

Labor all at sea on climate change policy

Phillip Coorey, AFR, 12/09/2019

Labor faces a long internal battle over its new climate change policy with senior MPs expressing vastly divergent views over where to go next.

The only area of common agreement is that whatever policy position the party arrives at, it must make meaningful cuts to greenhouse gas emissions.

Labor’s climate policy was effectively junked on Monday when shadow minister Mark Butler said Labor’s policy agenda - namely its tax and spend plans and its climate policy - required a revision that was “deep, broad and ruthlessly unsparring”.

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/the-economy/brown-coal-in-sharp-decline-as-power-plants-close-and-renewables-rise-20190912-p52qju.html>

Brown coal in sharp decline as power plants close and renewables rise

Nick Toscano, SMH, 12/09/2019

Australia’s dependence on burning brown coal to produce power is diminishing, new figures reveal, as ageing coal-fired power stations close and the use of black coal, gas and renewable energy increases.

While the nation remains heavily reliant on coal and other fossil fuels for electricity generation, the use of brown coal – one of the most carbon

emission-intensive energy sources – eased 17% in the 2018 financial year. Brown coal now generates about 13% of energy demand.

The downturn in the production of brown coal-fired power is linked to the closure of Victoria’s Hazelwood power station in the Latrobe Valley and the impact of ageing coal-fired plants having to shut down because of maintenance issues.

Although coal accounts for 60% of national power generation, the report says, the figure marks a dramatic decline since coal-fired power’s peak share of 84% during the late 1990s.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/renewables-rise-but-fossil-fuels-still-power-nation/news-story/26d4bc05416aadd50f9edc2408668d1>

Renewables rise but fossil fuels still power nation

Geoff Chambers, Aus, 13/09/2019

Coal, oil and natural gas provided 94% cent of Australia’s “primary energy” needs and 81% of electricity generation last year, as the nation continues to rely heavily on fossil fuels despite a surge in renewable energy.

The annual Australian Energy Update reveals electricity generation from renewables increased 10% in 2017-18, and grew to 19% cent of total generation last year. Energy Minister Angus Taylor said while the energy update, released on Friday, showed a lower reliance on coal compared with previous years, coal-fired electricity generation “still accounted for 60% of total generation” in 2018.

“The challenge in the energy sector is integrating the renewables boom to deliver affordable and reliable power. That means keeping our existing generation in, and running at full tilt, and supporting complementary investment in dispatchable generation and storage,” Taylor said.




STOP WATER MINING
THE NEXT RESOURCES BATTLE



3CR Community Radio Earth Matters
‘Knitting Nanas against gas, coal and greed’, and other podcasts about coal, oil and gas can be found at:
<https://www.3cr.org.au/earthmatters>



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