

Up coming events:

DIVESTMENT DAY BRISBANE OCTOBER 18th 2014 Market Forces and our friends at **350.org** are calling on thousands of customers of **ANZ, Commonwealth Bank, NAB** and **Westpac** to turn out and publicly close their accounts on the 18th October if the banks fail to rule out further support for the fossil fuel industry. This is mainly happening in capital cities on Saturday October 18th as the banks are open on Saturday in Brisbane. See [Divestment day locations](#)

Rockhampton Divestment Action: October 17th If there were enough people interested in divesting in **Rockhampton**; we could get Divestment T-shirts sent up and have our own Divestment Action on Friday, October 17th 2014 in Rockhampton, See [Divestment day participation options](#) So if you are interested please contact David McRae at davidrossmcr@aol.com before October 7th, 2014

Why are we divesting our funds from the big four banks? The “banks on notice” campaign includes customers worth a quarter of a billion dollars in savings combined and with the owners of these new coal export projects now looking to banks for funding, there has never been a more urgent time to use that customer power. To see what your bank invests in the fossil fuel industry and put them on notice that you will close your account, go to: [Comparison Table for the Banks](#)

GALILEE BASIN COAL MINE APPROVALS

Greg Hunt approved Carmichael mine against **independent Expert Scientific Committee advice** that the mine could dry up endangered springs and have wider effects on the water levels in the Great Artesian Basin. The government has now signed off on two mega-coal mines, rail lines and export terminals to be built in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. If the mine goes ahead — **Adani**, is yet to make a final commitment and it may not be viable—See **Adani’s Galilee basin project not commercially viable 2014** It will be Australia’s largest coal mine, and represents the start of the opening up of Australia’s Galilee Basin, one of Australia’s richest coal reserves. The new installation will cover an area approximately seven times the size of Sydney Harbour and could produce up to 60 million tonnes of thermal coal per year.



The outback mine, which is located in a drought-prone farming area, requires a whopping 12 billion litres of water every year. See [mega coal mine threatens the great barrier reef and the great artesian basin](#) or [Adani mining project pdf](#) or [if you want to read more](#) Greg Hunt approved Carmichael mine knowing that carbon emissions from the mine would, at a stroke, cancel out all gains made from his own Direct Action climate policy. While the Coalition’s **Direct Action** policy would reduce predicted emissions by 131 million tonnes of carbon dioxide per year, the burning of coal from Carmichael mine sent to India would emit approximately 130 million tonnes of carbon dioxide for every year of the mine’s 90 year life.



The Saraji coal mine in the Bowen coal basin produces around 5 million tonnes of coal each year. Adani’s Carmichael mine could produce up to 60 million tonnes

See **Carmichael coal mine impacts will be felt for generations** Adani has calculated that the mine will release an additional 3Bn tonnes of CO₂ in Australia over a 60-year period, due to fugitive emissions. The approval of the enormous mine, which will cover 200 square kilometres, has enraged **green groups**, which claim the project will impact water supplies and increase



Greenhouse gases. Greg Hunt had the chance to avoid releasing billions of tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere but instead he showed a massive failure in leadership. On 29 July, 2014 Greg Hunt was interviewed on Radio National in the early morning, and when the interviewer asked him what the coal mine approval meant for the Great Barrier Reef, he said that it was 500 km inland and had nothing to do with the Reef. But how are

they going to export the coal, fly it out? No five million tonnes of seabed will be dug up and dumped somewhere (now on land?) in order to expand Abbot Point, with a rail corridor to transport the coal.

GALILEE (cont) Green groups estimate an extra 450 ships a year will have to travel through the Great Barrier Reef to get the coal. But Mr Hunt says environmental groups such as Greenpeace are exaggerating the impact on the reef. It's frightening that Mr Hunt chooses to minimize the 'direct' risks; while ignoring the huge damage the burning of the mine's product will cause. **Even if the reef isn't directly harmed by the mine, it will be doomed by the warming and acidification caused by the burning of the coal.** Perhaps the local water table will be saved; but it will be doomed by the manifest disruption to rainfall patterns already occurring. This attitude shows why Hunt and his colleagues are the

enemies of science and progress. Minister Hunt is delivering value for money to the fossil fuel lobby.

Let's not forget that this deal to transport coal to Abbot Point was also done for Gina Rinehart

See **GVK Hancock coal mine**



The Reddy family company, infrastructure behemoth GVK, got a controlling stake in coal mines owned by the Hancock group at Alpha, and a test mine has already been built (see above left). Back in 2011, Gina Rinehart flew three Coalition MPs to Hyderabad in a private jet, where they watched the granddaughter of her business partner marry in front of 10,000 guests. Mrs Rinehart was about to clinch this \$1 billion coal deal with the bride's grandfather - G.V. Krishna Reddy, the founder of GVK, one of India's largest energy and infrastructure companies. Barnaby Joyce, Julie Bishop and Teresa Gambaro collectively claimed more than \$12,000 in "overseas study" allowances to pay for flights home. See **Coalition MPs in overseas study claim for wedding**

One argument the coal lobby uses is that despite fervent wishing to the contrary, coal is the cheapest source of energy for the developing world. It is abundant and located in most countries, and it is the fuel source where the price is entirely controlled by the consumer, as opposed to all other fuels. But if Adani can't get it so cheaply elsewhere and it's becoming clear that the economics of the mine are borderline at best (see next page BMA job losses), they'll look for alternatives to coal. Such alternatives would include gas or renewables, which have a lower CO2 footprint than coal.

In 5 years' time I think renewable energy is pretty much going to make coal mostly redundant. The rapid advances being made in the renewable energy sector in the world will see to coals demise. If these mega mines do go ahead the wasted money on infrastructure for this coal mine is going to come back and haunt the LNP government.

In future years such adventures by the Abbott government will be looked back upon with outrage as the climate continues to deteriorate, and disproportionately affect the health, welfare, and prosperity of every single Australian. **The total lack of insight and forethought that this government has is amazing. If they put the same amount of money into creating infrastructure for renewable energy then we would be on a winner and would probably be at the front of this new technology.**



Rockefeller Heirs withdraw funds from fossil fuel investments

More than 800 global investors – including foundations such as the Rockefeller Brothers, religious groups, healthcare organizations, cities and universities – have pledged to withdraw a total of \$50bn from fossil fuel investments over the next five years.

See **Rockefeller heirs divest fossil fuels climate change**

BMA job cuts in the Bowen Basin

BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance is the largest employer in the Bowen Basin, with more than 10,000 staff and contractors. The company says a review of its operations in the region found the mines are overstaffed, and can operate more efficiently with fewer workers. BMA's asset president, Lucas Dow, says the coal industry is at a crossroads. Mr Dow says the high Australian dollar and decreasing coal prices are the main factors driving the job losses. See [BMA mine job losses](#)

UN Climate Summit

BHP Billiton, Shell and China Steel are among corporate giants that LAST Tuesday joined with governments including China and the EU to call on more countries to put a price on carbon to help stem climate change. At Tuesday's UN climate talks in New York more than 1000 businesses and investors and 73 countries called for national and international carbon pricing initiatives as the cheapest way to slash greenhouse gas emissions. [Business calls for carbon price](#)

China changes coal import rules

A significant portion of Australia's coal exports to China could be at risk from a Chinese government decision to block imports of lower quality "dirty" coal from 2015, potentially hitting exports worth billions of dollars. Australian coal exporters are scrambling to clarify the fallout from changes to China's coal import rules, which could expose the industry to billions of dollars in lost sales as China seeks to cut air pollution.



The Chinese government is to limit the use of imported coal with more than 16 per cent ash and 3 per cent sulphur from January 1, 2015, in a bid to improve air quality, especially in the major cities such as Beijing and around Shanghai. At the same time, China is moving to force power utilities to slash coal import volumes, also with the stated aim of improving air quality, although this move will primarily give China's local coalminers a lift. According to an analysis by Macquarie Bank, consultant Wood Mackenzie has indicated the Chinese ban could affect more than half Australia's thermal coal exports to China, although the ban is likely also to hit Indonesian coal exported to China.

Read more: [Australian export risk on china dirty coal ban](#)

Explaining climate change science & rebutting global warming misinformation

Scientific skepticism is healthy. Scientists should always challenge themselves to improve their understanding. Yet this isn't what happens with climate change denial. Skeptics vigorously criticise any evidence that supports man-made global warming and yet embrace any argument, op-ed, blog or study that purports to refute global warming. This website gets skeptical about global warming skepticism. Do their arguments have any scientific basis? What does the peer reviewed scientific literature say?

<http://www.skepticalscience.com/>



Sustainable Central Queensland an initiative of CCC welcomes contributions on energy efficiency; technological options and actions individuals and groups can take help CQ lead the transition to a sustainable future. Opinions may not necessarily represent the policy of Capricorn Conservation Council.