

## The Newman government's first 8 months in office: (Election was 24 March, 2012)

**Groundwater impacts of coal mining in the Galilee Basin** On June 18<sup>th</sup> 2012 Alpha farmer, Peter Anderson was concerned his 100 year old bore would dry up, after the EIS report said the Hancock mine may alter ground water height. On August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the Alpha coal project, Hancock Coal, was approved. The Corridor to Coast Galilee Network spokesman, John Burnett from Clermont said the rail line corridor to Abbot Point across a flood plain would have a devastating effect on prime grazing land, and recently in 2014 he said: 'It is ironical that the Qld government should choose to now offer to finance the rail link for Adani, when world bankers are backing away from the project. We need a government with a long term vision for our community. This does not include another FIFO mine'  
See <https://www.facebook.com/pages/C2C>

The **Great Artesian Basin (GAB)** covers 22% of Australia and is the only reliable source of water across its overlying arid and semi-arid areas. Even a hundred years ago, it was realised that the extraction and use of waters from the Basin was unsustainable – but there followed more than a century of mismanagement. The **Draining the Lifeblood report** [PDF 4MB], and **updated estimates of cumulative water impacts**, raised alarm bells about the potentially devastating impacts on groundwater resources from 9 proposed new 'mega' coal mines in the Galilee Basin, Central Queensland. This report was the first to attempt an assessment of the likely cumulative impacts of all 9 mine proposals. The report was released in September 2013, new estimates of groundwater impacts have since been provided to the regulator. The cumulative groundwater extraction of the 9 proposed mines has been re-determined at between 1522 – 2007 GL over the projected life of these mines, as opposed the original figure of 869 - 1354 GL in the Draining the Lifeblood report.

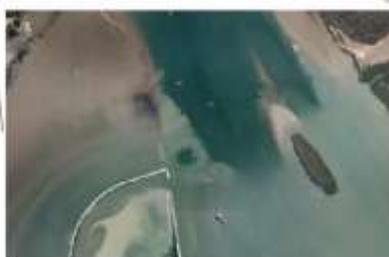


**Then there is the coal itself if the Galilee Basin gets going!** How much more carbon can we burn before we do irreversible damage, we've raised the temperature of the planet just 0.8 degrees, and that's caused far more damage than any scientist expected. Queensland has had its share of big floods and a severe drought just recently, but what will 2 degrees of warming be like if we keep burning thermal coal? Those mines in the Galilee contain enough carbon that, were the recoverable coal to be mined and burnt 705 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> will be released each year. If we don't find a new way to create SUSTAINABLE energy that is carbon neutral, how can we expect other developing and developed nations to do this!

**Something smells fishy in Gladstone Harbour** On July 31<sup>st</sup> 2012 Andrew Powell, Qld Environment minister asks for another investigation into Gladstone harbour water quality and diseased fish, when numerous reports have already been received. See **gladstone cover up exposed** Fish veterinarian Dr Matt Landos noted that all of the potential causes of disease



Satellite photos taken of Gladstone Harbour on 11 July 2011 (L&R), showing clean and green water quality north of the Fishermans Landing area, with highly turbid water in the area to the south (lower portion of the photo). Closer-ups of the affected area (below) show highly turbid water inside and adjacent to a bund wall used to contain dredged material, and dredges working near the eastern bank. Photos reproduced from *The Courier Mail* courtesy of Neumap.com.



in barramundi, sharks, queenfish and other species of fish and shellfish could be linked to plumes of poor quality turbid water originating from port development works which included Australia's largest ever dredging project. In June, 2012 Commercial fishermen say the report linking dredging in the Gladstone Harbour to declining fish health vindicates their concerns about the impacts of industry. See **new report directly links dredging in the harbour to outbreaks of fish disease**. Then in August 2012, Qld Fisheries said the fish are all getting better, however the fishermen disagree, **doubt cast over sick fish survey results** In May 2014 GLADSTONE fishermen and conservation groups feel both manipulated and vindicated in what is being called the failure of environmental management in Gladstone, saying the leaking bund wall in the harbour was only part of a bigger picture. See **Bund wall shock the failures could happen again**



## The Great Barrier Reef

On August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012 a CSIRO report revealed rising sea levels, temperatures and ocean acidification was causing corals to experience slower growth. See [Marine Report Card 2012](#) On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 it was reported by the Australian Institute of Marine Science that the Great Barrier Reef had lost half its coral in 27 years due to: storm damage (48%), Crown of Thorns (42%) and bleaching (10%) See [the Great Barrier Reef has lost half of its coral in the last 27 years](#) Yet on October 13<sup>th</sup> Jeff Seeney suspended the Queensland coastal-protection plan which regulated development because it “is not sufficiently supportive of the Government’s commitment to grow the four pillars of Queensland’s economy”, according to [the draft plan that replaces it](#). Green groups say the new draft plan erodes environmental protections designed to moderate the impact of development projects in coastal areas.



**So what is our ‘Can Do’ Campbell Newman government doing about Climate Change and the environment?**

Eighty per cent by volume of the summer sea ice in the Arctic is gone, so the reflection of solar rays from the ice mass is vastly diminished, yet the ocean absorbs the sunlight instead and as the oceans warm the acidity of the oceans has increased by 30%. This WILL damage the Great Barrier Reef as it is scientifically proven that coral reefs in more acidic conditions start to dissolve, coral reefs are acutely vulnerable to ocean acidification and climate change, yet the Newman administration has:

- **Dismantled all carbon abatement and climate change schemes** — including research into clean energy and programs that encourage people to reduce their carbon footprint — when it eliminated the Office of Climate Change. Climate change projections that predict sea rises and show potential impact on coastal communities were once the domain of the Queensland Office of Climate Change, but since its closure there is no central body to co-ordinate the mapping, and keep it up to date.
- Pulled state government support from the \$1.2 billion **Solar Dawn solar research and power plant**, which was destined to be the largest in the world and would have given Queensland a clear path to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels.
- Eliminated **more than 1,400 jobs** across government departments dealing with environmental concerns, as part of a plan announced in the September budget to shed a total 14,000 positions across the Queensland public service through redundancy and “natural attrition”.
- Announced that it would roll back the **Wild Rivers legislation** that protects areas from development and mining in the Cape York and Western Rivers areas — despite a pre-election promise to leave the western rivers alone. This was done in August 2014. See [Queensland wild rivers legislation repealed](#)
- Flagged **changes** to the enforcement of the Vegetation Management Act which regulates how and when landholders can clear native vegetation. This was done in June 2013, see [changes to the vegetation management framework in Queensland](#)
- Lifted the ban on shooting flying foxes, despite the endangered status of some species. This was done in September, 2012, see [ban lifted on shooting flying foxes in Queensland or targeting flying foxes](#)
- Proposed **changes** to the management of national parks that would open them up to tourism, allowing more access for 4WDs, horses and bikes in some areas. This was done in November, 2013, see [national parks to lose protection under legislative changes](#)
- Announced **plans to remove** the South-East Queensland urban footprint, which determines the density of development in the region, a planning tool conservationists say protects koala habitat and safeguards biodiversity. This is underway in 2015, see [SEQ regional plan](#)
- Prioritized **development in the Great Barrier Reef area**, with plans to approve projects that UNESCO has asked the government to delay, given the condition of the reef because ‘We’re in the coal business’, says ‘Can Do’ Campbell. UNESCO have deferred their decision of whether the Reef is in danger, see [UNESCO defers decision on great barrier reef danger status](#)



Check out CCC website to see: **The IPCC Synthesis Report 2014** <http://www.cccqld.org.au/>