

Central Bulletin

A newsletter from Central Queensland's only Senator, Matthew Canavan

THE NATIONALS
for Regional Australia

LNP LIBERAL
NATIONAL
PARTY



COAL'S NEW HORIZON

New markets for our 2nd biggest export



PLUS:

- Standing strong for North Queensland Jobs
- LNP investment keeps Central Queensland moving after Cyclone Debbie
- Mandatory Code of Conduct for the Sugar Industry



Opposition Leader Tim Nicholls, Deputy Opposition Leader Deb Frecklington, Queensland Senator Ian Macdonald and Member for Capricornia Michelle Landry and I celebrate the opening of the Adani headquarters in Townsville.

A new dawn for North Queensland

Ask any Queenslanders what matters most to them, and chances are their answer will be looking after their family and securing a strong future for their kids.

We know that the best way to do that is to create job opportunities throughout regional Queensland.

North and Central Queensland are on the cusp of a jobs boom. The investors in the Adani Carmichael Mine have given the \$16.5 billion project the green light.

That means jobs will flow, including through the Townsville headquarters, contracts for railway sleepers from Rockhampton, and a steel contract with Arrium in South Australia. But there's even more on the horizon. There are six potential mines in the Galilee Basin that would create a total of more than 15,000 direct jobs. On top of that there are the spin off benefits for small businesses, professional services and local shops.

Incredibly, both the Labor Party and their partners the Greens want to pull the handbrake on these opportunities.

In the past few months in Parliament the Labor Party has voted on two different occasions for the closure of coal-fired power stations and they refuse to stand up for

resources jobs. In Queensland, we witnessed the spectacle of an internal war between the Labor Party's green collar and blue collar which spilled over in a public spat over royalties and nearly put a stop to the Adani project.

More and more we see the Labor Party doing the Greens' bidding and turning their back on the workers of Australia. The LNP knows there is far more to our state than the inner city suburbs of Brisbane. We know because we live in regional Queensland, and we visit the communities outside the South East corner.

North Queensland is ready to make the most of the opportunities from opening the Galilee Basin. The LNP supports the coal industry, we support Queensland workers and we want to see our regions thrive.

Senator Matthew Canavan

Minister for Resources and Northern Australia

Tribute to Noeline Ikin: 1969 - 2017

Noeline Ikin tragically passed away on Saturday, February 11 2017.

From when I first met Noeline I knew she had the personality, passion and commitment to give Bob Katter a good run for his money as the LNP candidate for the federal seat of Kennedy.

Noeline had passion in spades. She fought tirelessly for the graziers of the north to get a better deal on debt. She was a driving force behind the Government's development of the north agenda. Her legacy lives on in those achievements.

Her family can be so proud of what she achieved even if they are heartbroken at how much could have been achieved.

Vale Noeline Ikin.



Senators Ian Macdonald, James McGrath and I with the late Noeline Ikin



Adani's Mundra power plant, the biggest power plant in India at its biggest port

COAL'S RISE AND RISE IN ASIA

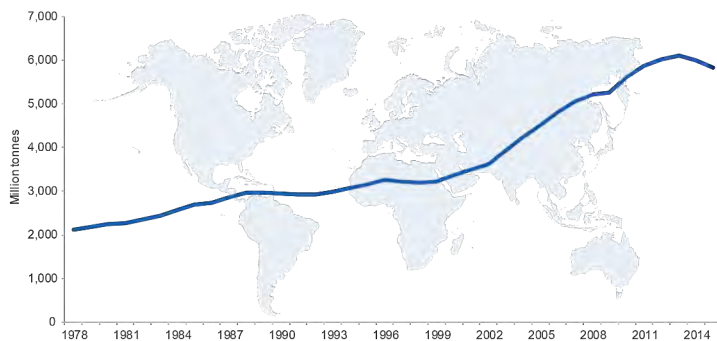
Australia has a history of helping countries out of poverty through the use of its resources. History is repeating in India and South East Asian countries

The Labor Party's energy spokesperson, Mark Butler, recently claimed that the coal market is in "structural decline". He is presumably an avid ABC listener.

For those who don't get their analysis of world energy markets from the ABC, the facts are quite different. This century, coal use has increased by 70 per cent -- there has never been such a dramatic surge in coal demand in such a short space of time.

Labor has never been good with numbers, hence they look at this graph and see "structural decline"

Global coal demand



To put this increase in context, before its early retirement, the Hazelwood power station used 15 million tonnes of coal per annum. Coal use this century has increased by enough to fuel 160 Hazelwood power stations -- structural decline that is not.

This is just one of the myths that haunts any discussion about coal. Eighty years ago George Orwell commented that "our civilisation is founded on coal more than one realises". It is no different today.

The reality is that increased coal use has helped bring hundreds of millions of people out of poverty. Twenty years ago around 1.4 billion people had no access to electricity. Today that figure has been slashed to 1.1 billion, in many cases thanks to coal fired power.

Those that are against coal are for more poverty.

There remains around 1.1 billion people around the world without access to electricity, and coal still has a role to play in fixing that inequity.

Australia is the world's 2nd largest exporter of coal, but we

are far from the largest producer of coal. China tops the scales at 3 billion tonnes a year, and India and the United States produce more than Australia. Of the 6 billion tonnes of coal used in the world every year, Australia produces 250 million tonnes, or just 4 per cent of world production.

Australia is a big exporter of coal but not a big producer in global terms.

However, we produce a high-quality coal product that is in great demand. The most important measure, from a power generation perspective, is the energy content of the coal. Australian coal mines produce coal that is typically around 6000 kilocalories per kilogram. Indian coal is typically around 3000 kilocalories per kilogram. This means that burning Australian coal will generate more electricity per tonne and fewer carbon emissions for the same amount of electricity produced.

Australian coal typically has lower sulphur and ash, which also make it better for the environment.

We produce coal for Asia, which is where our export growth has been strong. At the turn of the century, Asia accounted for just over 50 per cent of coal used in the world, in 2015 it accounted for 76 per cent of global use.

That figure is likely to rise even further, due to increasing demand in India and South East Asia.

India is the world's fastest growing major economy, and it has the potential to maintain that mantle given its youth and newfound political stability.

Each month, 1 million Indians turn 18, and 38 per cent of India's population is below the age of 20 (compared to 25 per cent in Australia and 23 per cent in China).

India is Australia's 5th largest export destination. Fifteen years ago, China was Australia's 5th largest export destination. No one can predict India's future growth, but then no one predicted that China would grow as strongly as it has in the past 15 years.

India is a country that we should have a naturally strong relationship with, given the three "C's" of Commonwealth, cricket and curry. In truth, none of these attributes has been a sufficient foundation on which to build a deep relationship.

We really need a fourth “C” of commerce to strengthen our relationship with India. The most likely form of that commerce will be a fifth “C” of coal.

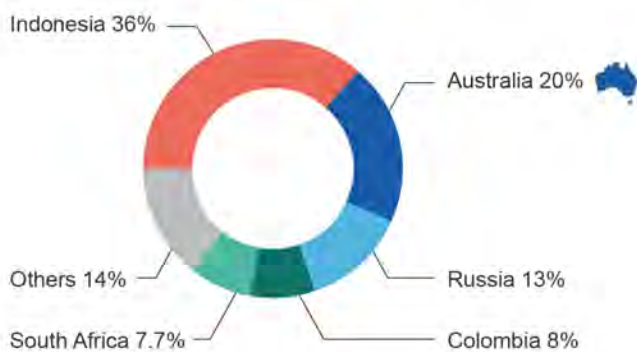
India has lots of coal, but it has a low energy quality and very high ash levels. They will need to import higher quality coal, especially as they move to more efficient coal-fired power stations.

India also has some serious problems in meeting demand from their own sources of coal. Most of India’s coal is in the east of its country (around the state of West Bengal), and congestion on India’s rail freight makes it costly to move to the west of the country, where most of India’s electricity

Share of global thermal coal production in 2015



Share of global thermal coal exports in 2015



demand is located. Further, increased mining activity would need to displace millions of Indians from their homes, an unlikely political outcome in the world’s largest democracy.

India has lots of coal but it is located far from areas of demand.

Coal imports in India have been rapidly rising, growing 17 times since 2000. Australia has not captured much of that market but opportunity awaits.

Over the next 10 years, India plans to increase its use of coal by 300 million tonnes. That is more than total Australian annual thermal coal production. Even if Australia just captures a small share of this increasing demand, it will deliver big increases in Australian coal production and therefore Australian coal jobs.

The same trends are occurring in South East Asia too. Until recently, Vietnam was a coal exporter, but its own economic development has increased its demand for coal and turned it into a net importer. The International Energy Agency projects that total demand for coal (metallurgical coal and thermal coal combined) will increase by 11 million tonnes per year by 2040 in South East Asia.

On the latest projections total coal demand (metallurgical coal and thermal coal) in Asia is set to increase by 30 million tonnes per year from 2014 to 4.5 billion tonnes per year by 2040.

We have no hope of meeting all of that increase ourselves, but we are perfectly positioned to provide a high-quality, niche product that can help provide electricity and economic opportunity to billions of people in our region, while creating enormous opportunity and thousands of jobs for Australians.

That is why companies like Adani and others have plans to open up the Galilee Basin, which would be the first new coal basin in Australia for nearly 50 years. Adani’s project is just one of six potential mines. Altogether, the Queensland Government projects that these six mines would create more than 15,000 ongoing, direct jobs in the mining sector. To put that in context, Australia’s entire coal mining sector, which is our second biggest export, employs 44,000 people today.

The Galilee Basin is more than 300 kilometres from the Great Barrier Reef. The Federal Department of Environment has said that the mine “will not have any direct impacts on the reef.” Adani has approval to use 4550 megalitres of ground water annually which is roughly equivalent to the amount used in a year by a 450 hectare cane farm in the Lower Burdekin. There is probably no better spot for a coal mine in Australia than the Galilee Basin. As locals have remarked to me “even the animals don’t like living in the Galilee.”

As for those suggesting that this mine will cause runaway global warming, that claim is so laughable that it barely deserves a response. Adani’s Carmichael mine will produce up to 60 million tonnes of coal a year out of a world market of 6 billion tonnes of coal used. The Greens never explain how just 1 per cent of world coal production could cause such an impact.

That is before you account for the fact if we don’t mine the coal, India and other countries will get dirtier coal from somewhere else. Because Australian coal is a higher quality, if anything developing our coal resources will be better for the planet’s environment. As the Queensland Supreme Court said in dismissing a green activist appeal last year:

“If the mine proceeded it would not increase the amount of global greenhouse gases or any environmental impact resulting from those gases.” (Coast and Country Association of Queensland Inc v Smith & Ors)

Opening up a new coal basin requires substantial investment in rail and ports to bring the resource to market. Every coal basin in Australia has been opened up through Federal and State government investment in rail and ports.



Member for Dawson George Christensen and I visited the Abbot Point coal terminal in North Queensland, one of the main hubs that gets Queensland coal to the international market.

In the case of the Hunter Valley, the Australian Government still owns the rail network. As recently as 2008, the Rudd Government decided to invest more than \$1 billion upgrading the rail lines of the Hunter Valley. Kevin Rudd at the time trumpeted the announcement saying that:

"This \$1 billion project will more than double the amount of coal being transported to export markets from 97 to 200 million tonnes a year."

Now, apparently Labor are opposed to a Federal Government loan to open up a new coal basin in Queensland. Why does Labor have one rule for coal in New South Wales and another for coal in Queensland?

The coal of the Galilee Basin is relatively high quality thermal coal for power production. Asian countries are building 125 of the latest coal-fired power stations, and that is driving increased thermal coal demand. There have been great advances in renewable technologies in recent decades, but coal-fired technologies have not been standing still.

Most of the latest coal fired power stations are being built in the Asia-Pacific region

The latest coal-fired power stations use advanced metals and welding techniques to generate power at higher temperatures and pressures and thus increase their efficiency. The higher efficiency means more electricity is generated from less coal, and that means that there are fewer emissions.

Australia's coal-fired power plants are mostly older technologies, but if we replaced them with the latest HELE plants, we could cut our emissions in the coal-fired power sector by 21 to 27 per cent. Emissions reductions in poorer countries are going to be even more dependent on the use of the latest coal-fired power

technologies.

This is good news for Australia, as these latest-coal fired power stations work best using high quality coals. As Morgan Stanley recently concluded in its analysis of coal markets:

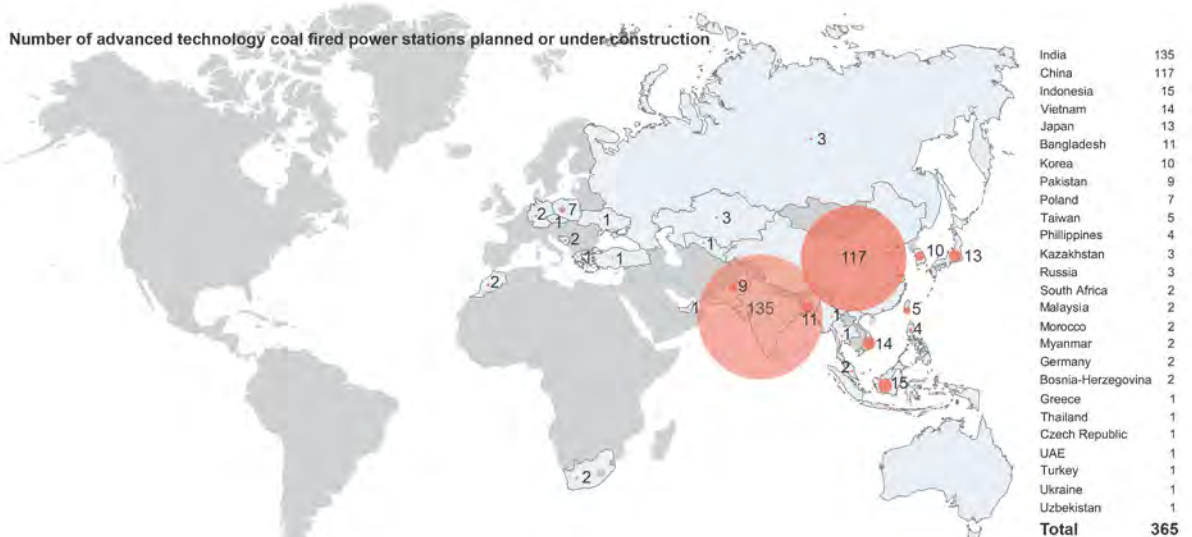
"Indonesia and Australia are the two largest exporters of thermal coal, but Australian export coal typically is higher energy and lower moisture, although it often contains more ash. Overall, it is better suited for use in HELE power stations." (Morgan Stanley 2016, *Ultra Supercritical Analysis*, p. 5)

Don't hold your breath to hear that view expressed on the ABC!

Fifty years ago, Australian governments had to make a choice about whether they would support the development of the Bowen Basin and the expansion of coal exports in the Hunter Valley. At the time, the CSIRO advised the government that Australia did not have sufficient coal reserves to justify exports.

Fortunately, the Government, led by visionary Ministers like William Spooner, ignored that advice and did invest in the rail lines and ports that created a new coal export industry which in turn created enormous wealth for Australia and helped develop Central Queensland.

If governments do not show similar vision and bravery, we stand to lose this latest opportunity for Australia to create jobs, and wealth and to develop frontier areas of our nation.



DEBBIE SMASHES QUEENSLAND

North and Central Queensland have shown their strength yet again, pulling together after the devastating impact of Cyclone Debbie earlier this year.

Debbie hit hard in the sugarcane, tomato and capsicum growing regions of North Queensland.

Fortunately, most communities are now back on their feet, and some crops have been salvaged.

While cyclones are a fact of life for North Queensland, it doesn't make their impact any easier when the worst hits.

What can help though are the investments we are making to flood proof the regions as far as possible. A good example is the investment the LNP made in the Yeppen South floodplain bridge.

The Federal Government's \$136 million investment in the \$170 million Yeppen Floodplain Upgrade project meant Rockhampton wasn't cut off from the rest of the state due to flooding over the Bruce Highway.

Despite a near record peak for the Fitzroy, Rocky stayed open for business as the floodwaters rose.

This was the first time during a major flood that Rockhampton stayed connected to the rest of Queensland, instead of the Bruce Highway being cut in two. A report on the impact of the 2011 flood found that road closures cost Queensland more than \$80 million because Central Queensland was cut off from the rest of the state. Thanks to the Coalition's investments, Central Queensland was open for business for the entire duration of the flood event.

Local shops kept their doors open, produce was moving and people were able to travel to and from the rest of Queensland.

The recovery effort has also been given a boost thanks to donations from resources companies.

The donation of more than \$700,000 from locally-operating resources companies including BHP Billiton, Rio Tinto, Adani and Aurizon was not only a generous gesture, but has also had an impact on how quickly our communities recover.

We know that the resources industry plays an important role in regional communities, through direct jobs and also the flow-on spending at local businesses.

It's great to see that resources companies consider themselves a part of the communities in which they operate and are prepared to chip in to help locals get back on their feet.



JUST WATCH THE BENEFITS FLOW

A RIBBON of water stretching 60km across the often dusty plains of central Queensland is a dream about to come true for a legendary Australian who has devoted much of his life to Australian agriculture.

Larry Acton, whose drive created the broadacre lobby group AgForce by amalgamating the Queensland Grain Growers Association, Cattlemen's Union and United Graziers Association, can't wait for bulldozers to start at Rookwood Weir on the Fitzroy River, west of Rockhampton.

Mr Acton won't gain much financially with his property Riverton, which runs a commercial herd of Braford cattle, disadvantaged for at least a year by the presence of work crews.

But he, with thousands of primary producers who have been calling for a return of the state's dam-building culture, will deal with the inconvenience in return for seeing Queensland's farm sector developed.

Mr Acton said the state's wealth was built on projects such as Eungella Dam, which fuelled the mining boom in the Mackay hinterland, and Fairbairn Dam near Emerald, which spark-ed hundreds of millions of dollars of agricultural development.

The Rookwood Weir, with a \$130 million commitment from the Federal Government expected to be backed by a similar commitment from the State Government, will provide water for an agricultural boom which the Commonwealth believes will be worth about \$1 billion to the Rockhampton region.

To Mr Acton, the real money will be made in the hinterland, as the softwood scrub and brigalow country which covers a mixture of rich dark and red soils gives way to farms producing anything from grapes and peanuts to lychees and citrus, all fed with water from Rookwood weir.

"People have no idea what can be grown out here if we have the water," he said.

"It's extraordinary what can happen if you think about it – even if the water stretches back just 50km, that means up to 100km of farms on either side of the river all producing food."

Senator Matt Canavan, a local and a driving force behind the Federal Coalition's pro-dam policy, visited the weir site with Mr Acton last month. He says Australia has to reinvigorate the building ethos which fuelled projects such as the Snowy Mountain Scheme.

"There are often quite good environmental objections to dam projects ... but many can now be addressed with sensible measures that protect the environment and still allow our agricultural sector to expand," Senator Canavan said.

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JUST WATCH THE BENEFITS FLOW

Dam exciting future to the west of Rocky

MICHAEL MADIGAN

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LANDS PLAN Larry Acton and Senator Matt Canavan at the Rookwood Weir site.

Originally published in The Courier Mail, Feb 23 2017

Northern Australia Research Centre open for business

Earlier this year, I was in Townsville to announce the establishment Board for the \$75 million Co-operative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia, which will get to work on attracting research projects that benefit the north.

The CRC, which is headquartered in Townsville as part of the Townsville City Deal, will be chaired by Cairns business woman Sheriden Morris. Its other members include representatives from Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

The CRC for Developing Northern Australia will focus on the issues that matter in the north. This CRC will bring together industry, research organisations and all northern jurisdictions with international partners to tackle barriers to private investment in the north, with an initial focus on agriculture, food and tropical health.



I spoke with researchers at James Cook University in Townsville about ways we can boost our return on research investment that benefits the North.

The Northern Australia CRC Board has a deep understanding of the issues facing the north – all of its members are from Northern Australia.

It's members include Chair Sheriden Morris, Cr John Wharton AM, Cr Peter Long, John Ivor Bearn, Don McDonald AM OBE, Tracey Hayes and Melissa George.

Lights off under Labor

When Australians turn on their Christmas lights this year, on average, 60 per cent of them will rely on coal to power their festive display.

For those of us on the East Coast more than three-quarters of the power will come from coal.

Incredibly, the Labor Party is trying to turn out the lights as an unwanted Christmas present, calling for the closure of all coal-fired power plants.

The very same Labor Party which once claimed to support workers is now supporting the loss of jobs in the coal sector and the end of cheap power in Australia.

Last month Bill Shorten went to the Hazelwood coal-fired power station in Victoria and cried crocodile tears for workers. He said he is not "a rampant greenie".

But this week his energy spokesman Mark Butler confirmed the closure of power stations is front and centre of Labor's policy. Labor has endorsed a Senate report that says "the question is not if coal-fired power stations will close, but how quickly and orderly these closures will occur".

This is a slap in the face for the tens of thousands of Queensland workers who rely directly on the coal sector, and it recklessly compromises our energy security.

Last year the Queensland Labor Party campaigned strenuously against workers at coal-fired power stations having a private sector boss. This year they want to put those same people out of work.

You would think the ideological opponents of coal would have learnt a lesson from the South Australian imitation of North Korea a couple of months ago.

The last coal-fired power station in South Australia, the Northern Power Station, was shut down in May. The South Australian Government trumpeted the closure, saying the power station "was past its day". In September, South Australia experienced the first statewide black out since the 1960s.

Coal remains our second biggest export. We are exporting record amounts and it's earning our country about \$35 billion a year. The coal industry, along with iron ore, was one of the big reasons we avoided the global financial crisis.

Coal is essential for keeping the lights on and boosting economy

MATT CANAVAN
MINISTER FOR RESOURCES

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The coal industry, along with iron ore, was one of the big reasons we avoided the global financial crisis.

There is no way to have a competitive manufacturing industry without baseload power. We can't smelt aluminium with batteries.

Australian jobs rely on us getting this right. I vote for coal and lots of good paying Australian jobs.



We can now say that we are entering our 26th consecutive year of economic growth.

However, the Labor and Greens alliance wants to destroy our competitive advantage that comes from affordable electricity and high quality coal.

The coal doesn't become dirty on the boat on the way to China. If it's 'dirty' here, it's 'dirty' there.

Why would we export an important, energy-producing, job-creating resource to another country to create jobs there, but deny that resource to job-creating industries here?

The 900,000 people employed in manufacturing rely heavily on access to cheap, baseload power.

There is no way to have a competitive manufacturing industry without baseload power. We can't smelt aluminium with batteries.

Australian jobs rely on us getting this right.

They rely on us keeping our competitive advantage in coal and cheap power. If we don't have cheap power we will have two other choices forced on us; cheap wages or no jobs.

I vote for coal and lots of good paying Australian jobs.

Originally published in the Courier Mail on 1 December 2016



Infrastructure Minister Darren Chester visited Rockhampton to announce our \$100 million investment in Beef Roads that will keep one of the North's most important industries on the move.

More funding to fix the state's Beef Roads

The Federal Government is delivering major new funding to improve productivity on Queensland's livestock transport routes

The Federal Government is supporting the state's cattle industry by undertaking targeted upgrades on roads that are essential for transporting cattle in Central and North Queensland.

We have committed over \$56 million toward targeted road upgrades and improvements, providing a welcome boost to the Queensland cattle industry.

This commitment will enable 15 projects to be delivered, including \$20 million towards the upgrade of the road between Gracemere saleyards and the Rockhampton abattoirs.

Other projects range from sealing and road widening works that will help boost industry

productivity, to increasing road reliability and safety on key routes in the cattle supply chain.

The Beef Roads Programme recognises moving cattle from the farm gate to market involves some of the longest and most challenging land transport distances of any industry, anywhere in the world.

The beef industry is the big winner from these investments. With beef prices at record levels, a bigger beef industry is a big part of developing Northern Australia.

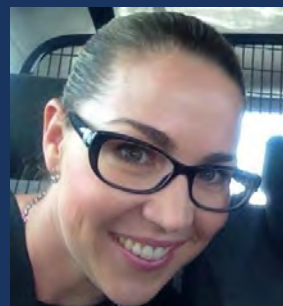
The upgraded roads will also provide benefits to all road users, including other agricultural industries and the freight sector more broadly.

What does industry say about our Beef Roads package?



"The ability to bring four decks in is certainly great for efficiency. It'll save money and save time and you'll have trucks on the road less of the time."

- Geoff Maynard, Maynard Cattle Co. and Meat and Livestock Australia Director



"It'll improve fatigue management. It's going to save two hours a day per load."

- Laura Francis, Fancis Freighters

Mandatory code of conduct for sugar

The Coalition Government has introduced a mandatory code of conduct to apply to growers, millers and marketers in the sugar industry.

The code of conduct ensures grower choice in marketing and that all parties have access to arbitration and mediation. It provides certainty for the industry and will assist in the prevention of future disputes.

The code is designed to maintain market competition and give growers a practical choice in where their sugar is sold.



The sugar cane industry underpins the livelihoods of many towns in the North, I met with cane growers to hear their comments about marketing arrangements.

We would have preferred QSL and Wilmar to come to their own agreement, but if action is needed then this Coalition Government takes action.

The code was announced in March by Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce. This followed a number of warnings that the Government would implement a code if necessary to provide certainty for the industry.

The Deputy Prime Minister said in particular the Queensland Labor Government's threats to repeal that State's *Sugar Industry (Real Choice in Marketing) Amendment Bill 2015* made it increasingly important to have an overarching Commonwealth code of conduct to provide certainty to the industry.

The Government consulted widely with sugar industry representatives. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce and Treasurer Scott Morrison all met with cane growers before the decision was made. In North Queensland, Barnaby spoke to an estimated 1,000 cane farmers about the industry impasse.

The Treasurer's discussions with affected millers and marketers resulted in a commercial agreement being reached that is compliant with current Queensland legislation.

The Deputy Prime Minister thanked in particular local MPs George Christensen and Michelle Landry, and State Opposition Leader Tim Nicholls, for their help in securing the code of conduct.

Townsville stadium a step



It was great to join the Assistant Minister for Cities Angus Taylor, Townsville Mayor Jenny Hill and Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull to mark out the try line for the new Cowboys' stadium.

The Australian and Queensland Governments have signed off on a project agreement to deliver the new North Queensland Stadium in Townsville.

This \$250 million project will provide a new 25,000-seat, purpose-built stadium and is expected to generate around 750 jobs during the design and construction phases.

Expected to be completed before kick-off time in the 2020 NRL season, the stadium will do more than just provide a new home ground for the North Queensland Cowboys and a new level of comfort for fans: it is also expected to revitalise the Townsville CBD and attract new visitors and investment to the region.

The new stadium is also the first project to proceed under the Townsville City Deal – signed by the Commonwealth Government, Queensland Government and Townsville City Council and the Commonwealth is contributing \$100 million to the construction cost.

Balancing agriculture and national defence

Prior to Christmas, the Australian Defence Force unveiled a proposal to expand its military training facilities at Shoalwater Bay and Charters Towers. In these uncertain times, it is imperative that our troops are fully equipped to train for beach landings, helicopter and airlift operations and the latest military technologies, such as unmanned aerial vehicles.

We have taken a clear position on this issue: agricultural land at Shoalwater Bay and Charters Towers should be used for agricultural purposes. To this end, the Federal Government has come to the decision that no landowner will be forced to sell their property to Defence against their will. In other words, there will be no forced land acquisitions. The Federal Government has reached this decision following consultation with local landowners.

During the past few months, I have joined Defence Minister Marise Payne and Central Queensland MPs Michelle Landry and Ken O'Dowd, listening to landowners and taking their concerns back to ADF officials in Canberra. The Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce also visited Shoalwater Bay.



I sat down with Defence Minister Marise Payne, Capricornia MP Michelle Landry and Flynn MP Ken O'Dowd to listen to local feedback about the military training expansion

Labor's attitude towards this process has been a disgrace. Instead of simplifying land management policies, the Queensland Labor Government wants to further restrict land clearing. This is not only lowering land value for farmers, but it will make future expansion of Shoalwater Bay much more difficult.

Annastacia Palaszczuk needs to declare whether she stands with our troops and our farmers, or whether she stands with the Greens in defending her job destroying vegetation management policies.

Upgrades needed for Stanage Bay Road

I had the opportunity recently to jump behind the wheel and negotiate some 80 km of gravel that makes up most of the road joining the Bruce Highway north of Rockhampton to Stanage Bay.

This village is immediately north of the military training area at Shoalwater Bay and, with the



Michelle Landry and I took a drive along Stanage Bay Road to see for ourselves the condition of the road.

prospect of increased traffic on the road as exercises increase, local residents are looking for improvements.

They don't necessarily want to see the whole Stanage Bay road sealed but they certainly want increased safety, and that would probably mean more bitumen on some sections and examining road alignment and creek crossings. I have travelled along this road several times over the past few months, joined by the Member for Capricornia Michelle Landry. She has been lobbying for improvements to this and other roads in the region.

It was important that we saw it for ourselves to get a firsthand understanding of the state of the road. The road obviously could be better - and the main concern we heard is that local residents would like it safer - and that's the message we have taken to our colleagues in Canberra.

Securing Australia's gas supplies

Australian jobs depend on affordable gas.

For decades our access to cheap and reliable gas has driven our manufacturing industry to expand and create jobs, especially in regional Australia.

There are more than 65,000 jobs across Australia in industries that rely heavily on gas.

That's why the Government is putting in place a safeguard for Australian industry – the Australian Domestic Gas Security Mechanism.

It will ensure that Australia's gas market has access to gas at a reasonable price that reflects the global market.

Australia is on the verge of becoming the world's largest exporter of LNG. But it's not acceptable for Australia to take that title at the expense of affordable and accessible gas for our own use.

The LNG export industry based around Gladstone has been an important economic driver for Queensland, and it has created thousands of jobs.

We want to ensure that export industry can continue to thrive, at the same time as ensuring our manufacturing sector can continue to stay in business.

The two don't have to be mutually exclusive.

The Australian Domestic Gas Security Mechanism will only come into effect when the Government has evidence that there is a looming domestic shortfall.

The assessment will be based on the expert advice from the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO), the ACCC and industry sources.

We've developed the mechanism with full consultation with gas suppliers and gas users.

But we need State Governments to step up too.

The simple fact remains, the best way to ensure affordable gas into the future is for states to develop the rich reserves of gas below our feet.

To Queensland's credit, they have backed the development of the gas industry and have reaped the benefits of jobs and gas supply.

But in Victoria and the Northern Territory there are blanket bans on gas exploration and development. This is despite the fact that scientists have estimated there are significant reserves underground. In Victoria's case, there could be enough gas to supply the East Coast for 40 years.

The Australian Government is investing more than \$90 million over the next four years to increase gas production and support affordable energy prices.

We want to work with the States and Territories to bring new projects online, especially those that can



I spoke at a media conference with the Prime Minister to announce our plan to support jobs and manufacturing through domestic gas security.

supply the domestic market. At the same time, we want to ensure a fair return to landholders.

Of course we can't implement the program in States and Territories where there are blanket bans in place that prevent any gas exploration and development.

I encourage both Victoria and the NT to rethink their bans on the industry. But if they choose not to, those states that have a working gas industry will be the ones that benefit directly from the new funding, and that means Queensland, South Australia and New South Wales.

We'll work with the states on implementing the program. Projects might include the use of new technologies for well productivity, developing new gas exploration wells near existing gas infrastructure or new processing, storage and transport facilities.

The Turnbull-Joyce Government is committed to putting Australian demand for gas first which means more reliable and affordable gas for Australian households and businesses.



I joined with Industry Minister Arthur Sinodinos, Bonner MP Ross Vasta and the PM on a tour of the Incitec Pivot site in Brisbane, where gas prices are a big input to the cost of doing business.

Almost \$7 billion budgeted for building the North

The 2017 Budget has confirmed the Coalition Government will provide almost \$7 billion for major infrastructure projects in Northern Australia.

Major funding is planned for infrastructure-related projects that will not only boost employment and economic activity in Northern Australia but also strengthen the national economy.

Funding includes \$5 billion in concessional loans from the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF), \$600 million from the Northern Australia Roads Programme, \$200 million in defence capability in the Northern Territory, \$170 million for water-related projects, \$147 million for the Townsville Eastern Access Rail Corridor and \$100 million for the Beef Roads Programme.

Of the \$600 million budgeted for the Northern Australia

Roads Programme, \$188 million will be provided in 2017-18. Of the \$100 million for the Beef Roads Programme, \$45 million will be provided in 2017-18 across Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia.

We're also delivering the Townsville City Deal, including \$100 million to help fund the new rugby league stadium and \$147 million for the Townsville Eastern Access Rail Corridor - an eight-kilometre rail freight line that will connect the North Coast Line directly into the Port of Townsville.

The Government has committed funding of \$307 million for water infrastructure projects across Australia and over half - \$170 million - has been allocated to Northern Australia.

This includes \$130 million to fund half of Rookwood Weir on the Fitzroy River near Rockhampton, and a further \$40 million for feasibility studies

covering two projects in the Northern Territory, five in Western Australia and 10 in Queensland.

The Coalition is getting on with the job of developing Northern Australia. I am passionate and committed to boosting jobs and economic development in communities across the North.



Fairness, opportunity and security - how the Federal Budget delivers for Queensland

In a massive win for regional Australia, work on one of the largest investments ever seen in regional Australia, the Melbourne to Brisbane Inland Rail, will commence in 2017-18. The Turnbull-Joyce Government is also undertaking a preliminary study on linking inland rail to Gladstone.

We have also abolished 457 visas to protect Australian jobs and are replacing the scheme with a new program more suited to our economic needs.

We are introducing a new foreign worker levy for certain temporary and permanent work visas. The funds raised from this levy will go to a new Skilling Australians Fund

to give permanent funding for skills training.

The Government is also cracking down on people trying to take an 'easy ride' on the welfare system by strengthening mutual obligation requirements for payments and cracking down on those seeking to get out of those obligations.

Parliamentarians should do their job

The Australian Parliament is supposed to be a place where we work for you. This week the Labor Party forgot that, by refusing to do one extra day of work to help thousands of Queenslanders get a job.

The Parliament is amending a law to ensure indigenous Australians can continue to benefit from the jobs and opportunities from a whole range of projects across Australia. That includes mining, agriculture and infrastructure.

The amendments are required to make sure the voices of a majority of traditional owners continue to be heard through Indigenous land use agreements.

The agreements allow for projects to go ahead to the benefit of both traditional owners and local communities. Indigenous groups have asked the Government to make the changes as soon as possible. The Labor Party claims they support the changes, but this week in the Parliament they flat out refused to turn up for one extra day that would mean the new laws could be passed now instead of one month's time.

Now I know many Australians would love to knock off early on a Friday, but when we've got such important work to do, the Labor Party's no-show risks a no-go for thousands of Queensland jobs.

One of the projects affected by the Labor stop work is the \$16.5 billion Adani Carmichael Mine in Central Queensland. Adani wants to make a final investment decision in a few weeks' time on a project that would create more than 3,000 jobs itself, and open up a new resources basin that could create more than 15,000 jobs.

After seven years of delays and deferrals, Adani wants to get moving.

Other projects like this are also on the line because of Labor's games.

The truth is, the Federal Labor Party is torn between its green collar and its blue collar. Bill Shorten this week said that he wanted to support jobs for Australians, but actions speak louder than words. All too often it's the Greens who call the shots in the Labor Party. We can't all have careers as well-paid environmental activists.

As Indigenous leader Warren Mundine said, this is about more than the Adani mine - it's about providing real job opportunities for Indigenous people, and all Australians.

While Labor Party Senators spend this weekend at home, mostly in the capital

cities, I hope they take the time to remember - instead of a stop work, we need to kickstart jobs in regional Queensland.

Originally published in *The Sunday Mail* on 14 May 2017



"Don't take my coal job and I won't take your soy latte": that's the tongue-in-cheek message on bumper stickers now being seen all over North Queensland.

They are the brainchild of former AGL executive Nathan Vass and are being distributed by the *Townsville Bulletin* newspaper. The first print run disappeared in no time but the stickers are now available

again in the newspaper's Flinders Street headquarters.

They can also be picked up free-of-charge from my office in Rockhampton.

I joined Townsville-based LNP Senator Ian Macdonald in the *Townsville Bulletin* offices recently to grab some more copies of the bumper sticker and agree wholeheartedly with the sentiment it represents.

"Bank of New South Wales" rejects Queensland investment

Westpac's new policy on funding coal mines discriminates against Queensland.

In this area of its business, Westpac looks to be reverting to its previous name: the Bank of New South Wales.

Westpac's new policy specifically states: "For new thermal coal proposals, we will limit lending to any new thermal coal mines or projects ... to only existing coal producing basins."

This means Westpac would fund new coal mines in existing coal-producing regions like the Hunter Valley in New South Wales but would not fund new coal mines in developing regions like the Galilee Basin in Queensland.

Westpac's decision is against the interests of Queensland and against the interests of developing Northern Australia. There is an enormous opportunity in the Galilee Basin to develop the third major coal basin in Australia. We haven't developed a coal basin for nearly 50 years in Australia. The last one was the Bowen Basin here in Central Queensland.

The Galilee Basin alone could generate more than 15,000 jobs. They are the jobs figures submitted by six coal mines that have received approval by the Queensland Government and those job figures are modelled on their environmental impact statements.

The coal mining sector today employs 44,000 people in Australia. So this increase of more than 15,000 jobs demonstrates the massive increase in wealth we could see from the development of the Galilee Basin. Coal remains our second biggest export and it seems nonsensical that an Australian bank – a bank that purports to be a proud Australian – would turn its back on our second biggest export as a nation, and the nearly 50,000 Australians that work in that industry.

Coal will be burnt in existing and yet-to-be-built coal-fired power stations round the world for decades and decades to come. Anyone interested in taking practical, realistic steps to reduce emissions from this sector should be



encouraging the development of Australian coal mines.

For example, coal in the Galilee Basin has an energy content 60 per cent greater than the coal in India which it will displace. If we want to reduce carbon emissions – and the Coalition Government has a commitment to do that and help the world do that – then we must take a global view rather than simply looking within Australia.

To reduce emissions round the world, our coal industry has an important part to play in producing and supplying high-quality, high-energy-content coal to the rest of the world to displace those mines in other countries with much lower energy content and much higher carbon emissions.

Bowen Basin Jobs package

A \$30 million jobs and investment package is now available to fund projects in the Bowen Basin region.

Applications can be lodged by July 31 for Federal Government funding for local infrastructure, business innovation and skills and training.

The package was launched in May by Minister for Regional Development Fiona Nash, along with Member for Dawson George Christensen, Member for Capricornia Michelle Landry and Member for Flynn Ken O'Dowd.

A Bowen Basin Local Planning Committee has developed an investment plan to ensure successful projects align with local priorities and this was published ahead of the applications opening on May 31.

This is a great opportunity for communities in the region to submit applications for key projects that will boost the local economy and create jobs.

The aim is to harness the broad range of skills in the Bowen Basin region to create more jobs, and it will see a very welcome injection of funding into the region after what has been a tough time with the end of the mining construction boom.

I would like to personally congratulate George Christensen, Michelle Landry and Ken O'Dowd for their tireless efforts in delivering this \$30 million package for the region.

The Bowen Basin will receive the largest single funding package amongst 10 regions to benefit from the Coalition Government's \$220-million *Regional Jobs and Investment Packages* (RJIP) program.

The other regions in Queensland to benefit from this scheme are the Wide Bay Burnett (\$20 million) and Tropical North Queensland (\$20 million).

Jobs for Central Queensland

cqlocaljobs.com.au

REAL ACTION
LOCAL JOBS
to develop Central Queensland

Home

Ag and Water

Coal and Resources

CQ Defence Deal

Roads and Transport

Bowen Basin Jobs Package

Register Now!



We all know Central Queensland punches above its weight, when it comes to our economic contribution to Australia.

But our region has fallen on tough times in recent years.

The LNP team in Central Queensland is focussed on creating jobs for our local communities.

Capricornia MP Michelle Landry, Flynn MP Ken O'Dowd, Dawson MP George Christensen and I are working together to make sure we maximise the opportunities for Central Queensland.

We know CQ is a great place to live, but we want to ensure there are plenty of jobs both for the people who already live here, and to bring even more people into our towns. Perhaps we can even poach some Southerners who've had enough of the big cities!

We've launched a website where people can register their interest to hear more about opportunities and investments in CQ.

The Coalition Government is investing in the future of Central

Queensland. We support the industries at the heart of the economy, including agriculture, mining and the beef industry, including our \$100 million investment in Beef Roads and \$130 million ready to go to build Rookwood Weir.

There'll be more exciting developments in the months ahead.

If you'd like to register your interest, you can do so at:

<http://www.cqlocaljobs.com.au/>



Senator Matthew Canavan

Minister for Resources and Northern Australia
Senator for Queensland

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