

AUSTRALIAN POLITICAL UPDATE – OCTOBER 2021

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ENVIRONMENT – ENERGY – ADANI-

https://www.lockthegate.org.au/landholders_rally_in_response_to_apas_renewed_pipedreams_and_subsidary_secretcy_revelations?fbclid=IwAR28UGbRkk9hZmQ76lMnkUaRwl0rmHPS1p5SZa2iS6D-mceCZZeedtKiwL4

Landholders rally in response to APA’s renewed pipedreams and subsidiary secrecy revelations

Published: October 21, 2020

North west NSW landholders say they are more determined than ever to stop gas pipeline company APA Group from carving a path of destruction through their land and the environment.

The comments come after transparency advocacy group Publish What You Pay revealed APA Group chose to establish a subsidiary in the secrecy jurisdiction of Delaware, USA, at the same time Delaware’s role in facilitating cross border money-laundering, tax evasion, and tax avoidance was publicly exposed.

The report also showed a spider web of connections between gas companies active in Australia, international tax havens, and tax-dodging billionaires, including a Russian oligarch who the USA enforced sanctions against in relation to the invasion of Ukraine.

The APA subsidiary, called APA Services (Int) Inc, is registered to the notorious “Corporate Trust Centre” at 1209 Orange Street in Wilmington, Delaware, where more than 300,000 other companies are also registered.



FORTESCUE ACCUSED OF WITHHOLDING \$1.9M FROM ABORIGINAL PEOPLE UNTIL THEY SIGN NEW MINING LEASES

https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/oct/13/fortescue-accused-of-withholding-19m-from-aboriginal-people-until-they-sign-new-mining-leases?fbclid=IwAR2e6ao62V6EzIJvYcC8QhUW0uU7g2M9ynAx_6c_OSVRjGWeOyBSSNvh7Gc

Eastern Guruma say royalties are being held up because they have been asking about FMG's plan in areas with numerous sacred sites

Traditional owners say \$1.9m in royalties is being withheld until they sign off on several new mining leases.
Photograph: Melanie Burton/Reuters

Lorena Allam Tue 13 Oct 2020 16.09 AEDT

Fortescue Metals Group is allegedly withholding \$1.9m in royalty payments from Aboriginal people in the Pilbara because the owners "asked for information about their plans" for several mining leases before signing them, a federal parliamentary inquiry has been told.

FMG is withholding \$1.9m in royalties it owes to the Wintawari Guruma Aboriginal Corporation (WGAC), which was due to be paid on 31 January.

SCREAMING COMMENT- According to my research Fortescue pays 0 Tax



GLENCORE'S \$1.5BN COALMINE A STEP CLOSER AFTER QUEENSLAND GRANTS SPECIAL STATUS

July 2020

https://www.theguardian.com/business/2020/jun/12/glencores-15bn-coalmine-a-step-closer-after-queensland-grants-special-status?fbclid=IwAR2aUxa6AyuWX_3jOuN7NCdkp6-Qzwpcd39Pjr_KEdP9hfbN2deGb7Dm6Ok

If greenlit, Valeria open-cut coalmine would dig up 20m tonnes of the fossil fuels over 35 years

The Switzerland-based mining company Glencore will push ahead with a proposed \$1.5bn open-cut coalmine after the Queensland government announced it had granted the project special status on Friday.



CORRUPTION

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/6963633/nsw-premier-wont-quit-over-icac-evidence/?fbclid=IwAR3c9zqPCALQdGy2v29n2F2-lVoikVxytiaEYUMbhwNWHUZI-7RZC3ZCZOY>

OCTOBER 12 2020 - 4:57PM

NSW PREMIER WON'T QUIT OVER ICAC EVIDENCE

A defiant Gladys Berejiklian says won't resign as NSW premier, despite opposition calls for her head after the stunning revelation she had a relationship with a disgraced former MP at the centre of a high-level corruption probe.

Ms Berejiklian on Monday afternoon said her relationship with ex-Wagga Wagga MP Daryl Maguire spanning several years, which she admitted at an inquiry into his allegedly corrupt business dealings, was a mistake.

Mr Maguire was forced to quit Ms Berejiklian's government in 2018 after a separate ICAC inquiry heard evidence he sought payments to help broker deals for property developers.



<https://www.michaelwest.com.au/sports-ports-the-affair-that-keeps-on-giving/?fbclid=IwAR3szQNC6PN7LcoiCEKSBiLeksRshCaNSYY37NoiDvg4sYE7Pbeh2WLkGtg>

SPORTS PORTS – THE AFFAIR THAT JUST KEEPS ON GIVING

October 2018 ongoing



In January 2020, the Commonwealth Auditor-General found that Bridget McKenzie's office made up its own rules for doling out \$100 million of sports grants leading up to the 2019 federal election in a process that was possibly illegal.

Auditor-General Grant Hehir found that McKenzie's office ran its own assessment process for determining where the 684 sports grants would go – a process that was "inconsistent with the published guidelines" from Sport Australia and possibly illegal. Some 43% of the projects funded were ineligible when agreements were signed.



<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/push-for-national-integrity-commission-to-restart-after-somyurek-fall-20200616-p5534m.html?fbclid=IwAR1zJ8y0moDDJNOdpaq2AIB5w9PR9VQ-DOM2kPhsiV1KCbntA8y0nwtZhs>

PUSH FOR NATIONAL INTEGRITY COMMISSION TO RESTART AFTER SOMYUREK FALL

June 16, 2020

The opposition has slammed the Morrison Government's proposed Federal Corruption Commission as a watered down iteration of what the Labor Party proposed earlier this year.

"We have collectively called on the Attorney-General to bring on the bill," Dr Haines said.

Mr Katter "nothing will happen" on corruption in politics if the Parliament did not set up the "machinery" to investigate wrongdoing, while Mr Wilkie said there was systemic corruption in politics.

"There is no doubt in my mind that there are corrupt politicians in the federal Parliament – not necessarily committing criminal offences, but they are behaving corruptly by any reasonable definition," Mr Wilkie said.

"They're corrupting proper process. They're doing things and making decisions and benefiting people in ways that are out of step with community expectations and could be termed at least improper."

Mr Wilkie said the "stench" of the troubles in the Victorian division of the ALP did not stop at the Victorian border.



https://www.getup.org.au/campaigns/media-campaigns/stop-murdoch-s-misinformation-ecdeccd2-626a-4664-a007-722cd29178da/call-out-murdoch-s-dangerous-misinformation?t=2qtJtA90&utm_content=v1&utm_medium=org&utm_name=fb-org-200618climatedenialstorymurdoch-v1&utm_source=fb&fbclid=IwAR0IHw75UdGGoltLJTAdwqa-GIQHGjNTVb16UqIA3y_BVrmj5SxkGwi3GU

CALL OUT MURDOCH'S DANGEROUS MISINFORMATION

During the bushfire crisis, the Murdoch Press deliberately pushed "misinformation" intended to "divert attention from climate change".^{1,2}

When Coronavirus first hit in Australia, the Murdoch Press published racist and xenophobic headlines on the front pages of its newspapers.³

The New York Times called out News Corp's "relentless effort" to "protect conservative leaders and divert attention from climate change".⁴ An employee rebelled against News Corp's "misinformation campaign" filled with "irresponsible" and "dangerous" coverage of the bushfire crisis.⁵ Even Rupert Murdoch's own son criticised the media giant earlier this year.⁶



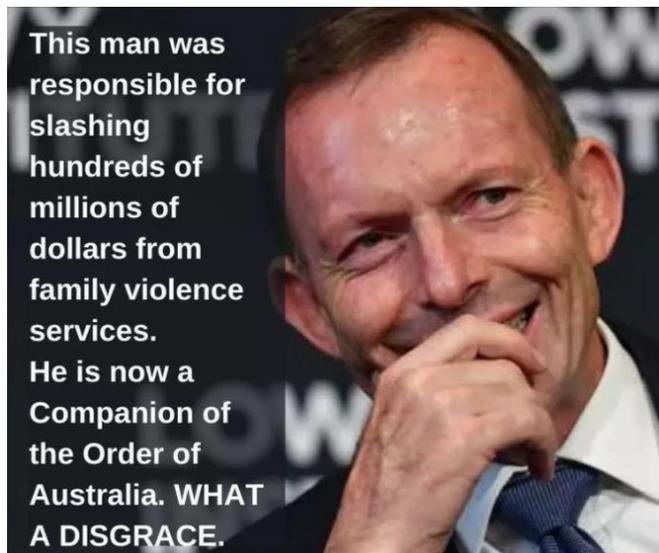
How one think tank poisoned Australia's climate debate

One of the Institute of Public Affairs's greatest successes has been to stitch climate denialism into the very fabric of the conservative political identity.

KISHOR NAPIER-RAMAN JAN 29, 2019  24



LIBERALS



CHINA



<https://www.facebook.com/stopforeignownershipinaustralia/posts/1314668288875497>

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/belt-and-road-deal-a-cause-for-alarm-warns-former-us-adviser/news-story/bf6c45a31af410c1d075d2e7d7727643>

BELT AND ROAD DEAL A CAUSE FOR ALARM, WARNS FORMER US ADVISER

Exclusive John Ferguson Associate Editor @fergusonjw

10:59AM OCTOBER 23, 2020

Victoria's Belt and Road Initiative agreement with China should alarm the community because it will come with "strings attached", including the expectation of backing the communist giant's foreign policy, according to a former US national security adviser.

Lieutenant General H.R. McMaster warned it was unrealistic to expect the Chinese Communist Party to treat people from other nations better than they treat their own population.

Speaking during a Menzies Research Centre webinar, General McMaster said there were potentially serious implications for countries such as Australia that strike deals with China.



https://www.smh.com.au/national/alarm-bells-sound-as-china-strengthens-its-chokehold-on-australia-s-high-tech-metals-20200706-p559j1.html?fbclid=IwAR1G2LNN_EVbRPQIF-J910BLE-m6_Ph2MDI6OP-uGz-TNmdtq7tRp6jC_S4

ALARM BELLS SOUND AS CHINA STRENGTHENS ITS CHOKEHOLD ON AUSTRALIA'S HIGH-TECH METALS

There are warnings China will be the only nation with the essential materials needed for defence and renewables technology over the coming years as they increase their market dominance of rare earths.

SMH By Nathan Hondros and Hamish Hastie JULY 8, 2020



https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/mps-were-due-to-visit-china-on-trip-partly-funded-by-beijing-20200701-p557w4.html?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR3DawGt9IEeRRwdOoWIJJrS97wxmehoQxAT-Mv-VWtfBE-VLMThSAfzrPA#Echobox=1593909042

MPS WERE DUE TO VISIT CHINA ON TRIP PARTLY FUNDED BY BEIJING

A group of federal MPs, the presidents of the two major political parties and a senior union official were due to travel to China on a trip partly paid for by the Chinese government, but it was cancelled because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The federal Liberal and Labor politicians, who had signed up to travel to China in early April, say they still want to visit the country because it is important to deepen engagement after relations between Canberra and Beijing have rapidly deteriorated.

Liberal Party president Nick Greiner, Labor Party president Wayne Swan, Liberal MP Dave Sharma, Liberal MP Fiona Martin, Labor MP Andrew Giles and assistant national secretary of the Australian Services Union Linda White had been confirmed as going on the trip.

The group also planned to have dinner with China's ambassador to Australia Cheng Jingye before travelling to the country.

The trip - which was being organised by the Chinese embassy in Canberra - was postponed once Australia started imposing travel restrictions on China on February 1 as the COVID-19 outbreak spread throughout the world.



<https://www.smh.com.au/national/carefully-laid-trap-why-is-china-imposing-tariffs-on-our-barley-and-what-s-a-tariff-20200519-p54uf7.html>

CAREFULLY LAID TRAP? WHY IS CHINA IMPOSING TARIFFS ON OUR BARLEY (AND WHAT'S A TARIFF)?

China has put an 80 per cent tariff on our barley exports for five years. Why barley? Why now?

China has slapped an 80 per cent tax on all barley grain imported from Australia. Some say it is retaliation for Australia's push for an inquiry into the origins of COVID-19. But others in the international trade community saw it coming and say the origins and potential ramifications of the dispute run much deeper.

One thing is clear: Australia has finally been engulfed by the global trade wars stirred up by US President Donald Trump, and Australian farmers are firmly in the firing line.

SMH By Jessica Irvine MAY 20, 2020



<https://www.news.com.au/finance/business/australian-university-teaching-prochina-class-that-amounts-to-amounts-to-propaganda-critics-say/news-story/d2d4f7e4182f0fc922f351ec26c5fb1b>

AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY TEACHING PRO-CHINA CLASS THAT AMOUNTS TO PROPAGANDA, CRITICS SAY

JULY 2020

An economics class at a Queensland uni is peddling Chinese “propaganda”, critics say, and is a sign of Beijing’s influence of local campuses.

as Communist Party “propaganda”.

The University of Queensland is under fire after lesson materials from its Understanding China undergraduate course were leaked, raising questions about foreign interference and educational independence at the public tertiary institution.

It’s the latest in a number of scandals arising from UQ’s close ties with Beijing, which have prompted calls for a Royal Commission.

Among topics canvassed in the ECON3820 course are the “terrorist” activities of the Uighur minority, whose persecution by Beijing has been described as ethnic cleansing.

Another discussion was devoted to whether pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong amount to terrorism.

Professor Clive Hamilton, a China expert at Charles Sturt University and author of the book Silent Invasion, said the involvement of the Confucius Institute in the course was “a scandal”.



<https://www.news.com.au/world/asia/barbaric-torture-brainwashing-and-forced-organ-removals-inside-chinas-brutal-death-camps/news-story/d249c1daedbbf1aff02f1c92744e2d78>

BARBARIC TORTURE, BRAINWASHING AND FORCED ORGAN REMOVALS: INSIDE CHINA’S BRUTAL DEATH CAMPS

Some 1.5 million people are kept in a huge network of prisons across China. Thousands also enter “re-education schools” never to be seen again.

operation was taking place across the country.

The practice, which China continues to deny, constituted genocide and industrial-scale murder and torture, Sir Geoffrey said.

“Forced organ harvesting is of unmatched wickedness, on a death-for-death basis, with the killings (from) mass crimes committed in the last century,” he said.

The tribunal heard testimony from more than 50 people — many of them former inmates at camps, which hold an estimated 1.5 million people.



https://www.smh.com.au/world/asia/the-end-of-the-hong-kong-we-knew-20200630-p557ma.html?fbclid=IwAR2_QB8uGN724Kfam45Yi-14TtWKCOy5r4PtYQsPSFwHgvI864PuTAfYk1I

'THE END OF THE HONG KONG THE WORLD KNEW'

SMH Eryk Bagshaw June 30, 2020

When it came, it was swift and secretive. A unanimous vote in China's top legislative body just after 9am on Tuesday put Hong Kong in the crosshair of Beijing's security agencies, some of its courts under the control of specially appointed judges and its people targeted for acts of secession, subversion and collusion.

Despite not being publicly released, statements made by officials since Beijing's National People's Congress in May reveal the new laws will establish mainland national security agencies in Hong Kong for the first time and criminalise acts of secession, subversion and collusion with foreign powers. They are also expected to give the Hong Kong government the power to appoint judges to hear national security cases.



<https://www.news.com.au/technology/innovation/military/chinas-destabilisation-strategies-show-bold-plan-to-attack-democracies-from-within/news-story/cba1a126f1aa91aa417dc3dda15cffc8>

CHINA'S DESTABILISATION STRATEGIES SHOW BOLD PLAN TO ATTACK DEMOCRACIES FROM WITHIN

It might seem like diplomatic hot air, but a recent war of words between China and Australia hints at a wider plan that should have us all worried.

Political leaders in China's capital Beijing are bold and getting bolder.

Lately, the country has been involved in military border stoushes with India, flooding social media with misinformation, and leveraging "political assets" to advance its agendas abroad.

The increasing pressure has many believing that something has to give.

It hasn't exactly been plain sailing between China and Australia lately.

Beijing recently unleashed an angry tirade at the Morrison government's call for an independent international inquiry into the COVID-19 pandemic. Before that, criticism of the mass detention of its Uyghur ethnic minority also drew outrage.



ECONOMY – EMPLOYMENT – BUDGET

OVER 2 MILLION AUSTRALIANS STILL UNEMPLOYED IN JUNE, DOWN 42,000 ON MAY

<http://www.roymorgan.com/findings/8453-australian-unemployment-estimates-june-2020-202007020214?fbclid=IwAR1ljmcQoLDzRNblrU8kaq6BiYCNMU8kxL4xbbZcwpXPIUn4D5Pjpl6jfaQ>

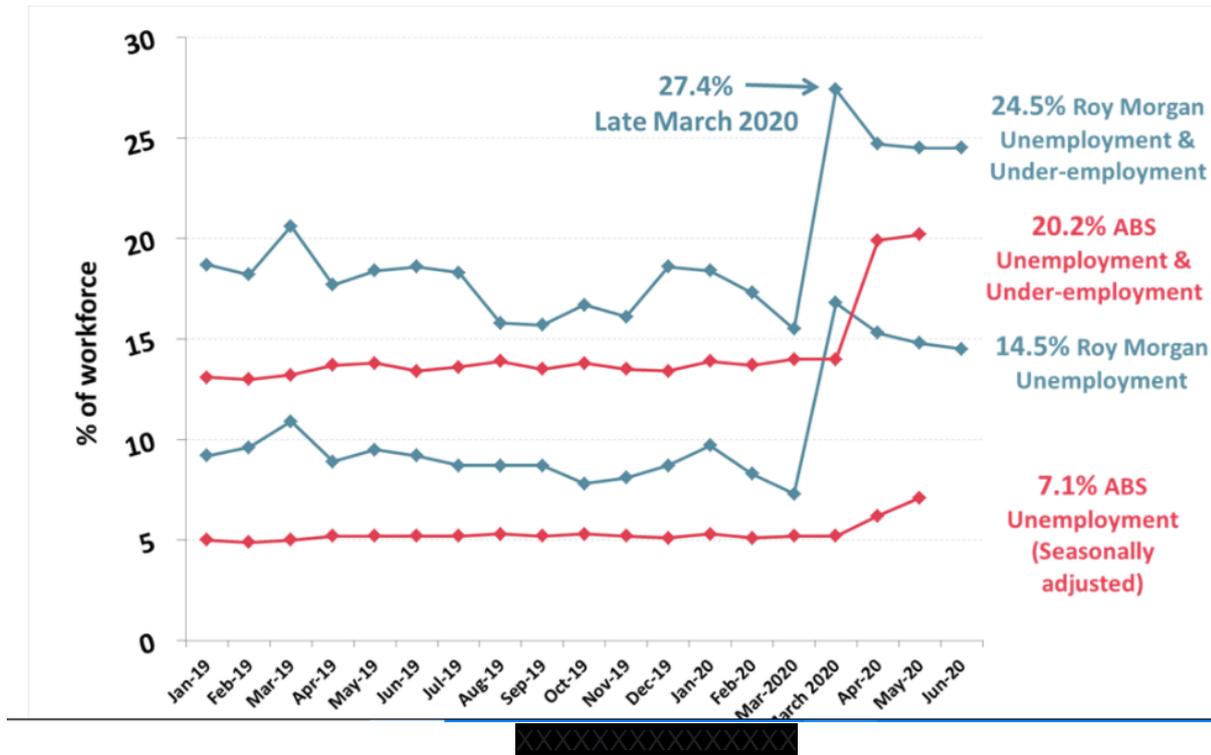
JULY 2020

In June 14.5% of the workforce (2.05 million Australians) were unemployed. This is 42,000 fewer than May, however, this slight improvement was largely cancelled out by the rise in under-employment, now at 10% of the workforce (1.41 million), and up 37,000 on a month ago.

This means a massive 3.45 million Australians (24.5% of the workforce) were either unemployed or under-employed, an improvement of only 5,000 on May according to the latest Roy Morgan employment estimates.

Compared to early March, before lockdown, there are an additional 1.03 million Australians now unemployed (+7.2% points).

Roy Morgan Unemployment & Under-employment (2019-2020)



AGED CARE

**TRANSPARENCY
ACCOUNTABILITY
MINIMUM STAFF & SKILL RATIOS
MAKE THEM LAW NOW**

MORE STAFF FOR AGED CARE

<https://www.facebook.com/MoreStaffForAgedCare/photos/a.189346088319966/642302619690975/?type=3>

June 18 · 2020

Residents, their families and the federal government pay aged care providers for the delivery of care. Yet many workers report being rushed off their feet, working short-staffed and unable to give the care they want. The residents see it too. Where does the money go if it's not going on staffing?



LABOR

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/labor-prepared-to-streamline-environmental-approvals-for-major-projects-20200617-p553n1.html?fbclid=IwAR2WTIzxeJofbo735IXAeoDMUCi9cZNeY7NvUmoUVX18Hps043ZARMCJ6bk>

LABOR PREPARED TO STREAMLINE ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVALS FOR MAJOR PROJECTS

June 2020

Labor is willing to fast-track approvals for major projects including mines and infrastructure in a new sign the Morrison government could reach a deal in Parliament to streamline environmental safeguards.

The Gillard government attempted a single regime but dropped the idea after intense criticism from environmental groups and concerns that it could not achieve uniform rules for all states and territories. The Abbott government also sought to create a "one stop shop" for decisions.



COVID 19

CHALLENGES AGAINST THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT'S CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO KEEP THE STATE ISOLATED AMID THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=3317469604953680&id=637395922961075

Billionaire businessman Clive Palmer and a group of businesses and individuals named Travel Essence launched separate proceedings in the High Court after the borders were closed in March.

