

INDUSTRY *Today*



Vietnamese visitors check out CQ industry
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30 years of Stanwell Power Station: Anniversary feature PAGES 11-14

Update on Aldoga Solar Farm

The Gladstone Engineering Alliance has hosted an Industry Update breakfast on ACCIONA Energia's upcoming Aldoga Solar Farm project.

ACCIONA Energia's Director of Development Dmitry Danilovich said the 445MWp project, which is currently in development, is the company's first in Queensland.

"The 445MWp project will have a peak construction workforce of around 350 people drawing on Gladstone's rich manufacturing and industrial history," Mr Danilovich said.

Turn to Page 6 for the full story

'Next gen' crucial to wool's future

The Remote Area Planning And Development board hosted its first Joint Alliance Workshop with an Attraction and Retention Workshop in Winton and via Zoom last week, with a focus on employment in the wool industry on the agenda.

Australian Wool Innovation CEO John Roberts says it's important to attract the next generation into the wool industry.

Turn to Page 7 for the full story

Women turn tide in resources

The tide is turning for Queensland's \$94.6 billion resources sector, with more women than ever before working for mining and energy companies.

Women now make up a record 22 per cent of the workforce, up from almost 20 per cent last year.

Queensland Resources Council Chief Executive Ian Macfarlane said the industry's efforts to recruit and retain more female employees were paying off.

Read the full story on Page 8



Girls GETT head-start with career options

Twenty female Year 10 students from Rockhampton and Gladstone schools checked out their future career options at the recent Girls Exploring Trades and Technologies event.

Turn to Page 2 for the full story and more photos

Bravus confident on Carmichael environmental record

'No damage'

Bravus Mining and Resources says no damage has occurred to the Doongmabulla springs or to underground water at the Carmichael mine, despite the Queensland Government issuing an Environmental Protection Order this month.

A Bravus spokesperson said an Environmental Protection Order issued by the State Government relates to potential future underground mining at the Carmichael mine, which the company has already publicly committed to remodelling.

The Order was issued after Bravus submitted an updated groundwater model for the

area of the Carmichael mine and its surrounds to the Queensland Government as per the requirements of their Groundwater Management and Monitoring Plan.

Bravus Mining and Resources chief operating officer Mick Crowe said Queenslanders could be confident the company was mining in a way that protects the environment and sites of cultural significance.

"Protecting the springs has always been a top priority for us, as we understand both their value to the Traditional Owners of the area and their inherent environmental value," Mr Crowe said.

"The Carmichael mine has some of the strictest environmental conditions of any resources project in Australia's history.

"As part of those conditions we have been measuring groundwater levels in and around the mining area for the last five years and have now submitted that information to the Queensland Government.

"The work we've done shows that we are not dropping the level of the water in the Doongmabulla springs complex with any of the open-cut surface mining we are undertaking now."

Turn to Page 9 for more

The editor's desk

Welcome to the second edition of the new look Industry Today, which is published in the Today's Group's Central Queensland newspapers - CQ Today, Gladstone Today, Emerald Today and the Longreach Leader/Central West Leader.

We had a great response to last month's inaugural 24-page edition, with praise from CQ businesses and the community, and we think the March edition is even better, with stories spotlighting industry from across the region, including an international delegation from Vietnam checking out our mining, manufacturing and ports industry (P3), an update on the Aldoga Solar Farm project (P6) and the wool industry's search for the next generation (P7).

This edition also includes a four-page liftout focusing on the history of Stanwell, with the iconic CQ power station celebrating 30 years since its first commercial load.

As well as the big names, Industry Today hopes to shine a light on the local and home grown businesses that are providing employment and economic benefits to our communities.

Do you know a business or industry that you think deserves the spotlight? Let us know at editorial@cqtoday.com.au



- Matthew Pearce

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INDUSTRY TODAY

GETTING headstart

Rockhampton's next generation of female technicians, tradies and engineers are set to find out what's needed to embark on a journey to a rewarding career in the resources and energy sector.

The Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy (QMEA), the education arm of the Queensland Resources Council (QRC), is officially kicking off its 2023 program with a series of breakfasts and workshops, thanks to support from the Queensland Government's Office for Women.

Twenty female Year 10 students from Rockhampton and Gladstone schools plus 20 women from the Rockhampton school community including teachers and mothers attended the inaugural Girls Exploring Trades and Technologies (GETT) in Resources event on Tuesday, 21 February.

QRC Director of Skills, Education and Diversity, Ms Katrina-Lee Jones said the GETT in Resources program is all about encouraging young females into traditionally male-dominated fields of study and employment, particularly in the resources sector.

"Six events across Brisbane, Rockhampton, and Townsville are being delivered for the first time by the QMEA, allowing young women who may be undecided on a career pathway as well as mature women wanting to re-enter the workforce to learn about the fantastic career opportunities on offer in the industry," Ms Jones said.

"This initiative supports the QRC's efforts to create a more diversified and inclusive workforce that attracts more females into non-traditional roles, including our ambitious diversity target of 30 per cent female participation by 2026.

"Comprising a breakfast event and industry panel, followed by an engaging, hands-on, half-day workshop in each city, GETT in Resources is showcasing activities and technical disciplines that correlate with the enduring skill shortages in trades and technologies."

During the breakfast panel made up of mainly females working in trade and professional roles, attendees will hear about personal experiences, challenges, and career opportunities available in the resources and energy sector.

Human Resources Manager with Glencore Coal, Ms Cayla Jurd said working in the resources industry in rural and remote areas has provided her with various opportunities to grow as an individual, noting opportunities



Toooloa State High School students participated in the Girls Exploring Trades and Technologies (GETT) program.



Hands-on workshops was held throughout the day.



Rockhampton State High School students learn more about the resources and energy sector.

that exist in the resource sector are "truly endless".

"Although my areas of study are in Law and Human Resources, I have been afforded opportunities to work across multiple disciplines including in the role of Operations Supervisor", Ms Jurd said.

"When things are getting tough, whether that be with school, an apprenticeship, university, or work, remind yourself - I didn't come this far, to only come this far."

After the breakfast panel, participants will move onto an interactive workshop focussing on skills and roles in high demand, showcasing the resources sector's use and development of cutting-edge technologies now and in the future.

Crab offer one to get your claws into

Fishers who support research by reporting tagged mud crabs in Queensland can get their claws on free escape vents.

The reports will help researchers track the spawning migration of female mud crabs and learn more about the species.

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries principal scientist Dr Julie Robins said the research would help ensure Queensland mud crab fisheries remained sustainable.

"The research is part of a bigger project that aims to provide a better information base to assess and sustainably manage Queensland's mud crab fisheries," Dr Robins said.

"There is a lot of folklore about female mud crabs and where they go to spawn.

"Reports of tag recaptures will help us understand where females move to and how long they live for."

If you find a mud crab with a yellow tag on its carapace, text a photo of the crab—along with the date and capture location—to 0466 868 913. (There's no need to remember this number: it's printed on the tag.)

"Remember, it is illegal to retain female mud crabs in Queensland," Dr Robins said.

"If you do handle a female mud crab, it must be immediately returned unharmed to the water."

Dr Robins said those who reported a tagged mud crab would be offered a free escape vent.

"Escape vents are compulsory in commercial mud crab pots in Queensland, but



Free crab vents up for grabs.

Picture: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

use in recreational pots is also encouraged," she said.

"The vents enable sub-legal sized mud crabs and fish to escape, making it easier for people to sort their catch and reducing the risk of overcrowded crabs injuring one another."

Researchers have tagged about 500 female mud crabs in Moreton Bay, Hinchin-

brook Channel, rivers in Weipa and Mapoon and Broadsound/Stange. They plan to tag another 1,500 mud crabs in other areas of Queensland.

This research project is co-funded by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation and involves researchers from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, CQUniversity and the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

Delegation impressed

By Karen Simmons

Last month Gladstone and the Central Highlands' mining, manufacturing and ports industry were showcased to an international delegation from Vietnam.

The Sustainable Minerals Institute (SMI), University of Queensland is hosting 15 middle managers from the Vietnam state company Vinacomin in a five-month program.

The first component of the program includes intensive English language learning while the second is training for modern mining, predominantly coal mining but also hard rock projects.

Dr Warwick Browne, Manager of the Training and Research Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining at the Sustainable Minerals Institute, said the delegation was welcomed in Emerald Monday February 6 by representatives from Central Highlands Regional Council.

"Mayor Kerry Hayes did a wonderful job at welcoming us, as well as Cr Janice Moriarty who hosted a fantastic dinner on the Tuesday evening," Mr Browne said.

"The Emerald field trip focused on the Central Queensland industry.

"We visited large open-cut mines at Emerald and Blackwater and observed the dumping and loading areas for coal trains.

"The delegation also toured larger-scale gem fields mining sites, visited a solar farm and observed Fairbairn Dam and the downstream effects it has on the agriculture sector."

Mr Browne said the purpose of the delegation including English in the five-month program was to help them engage with international mining companies.

"The Modern Mining Issues component covers a range of learning modules at SMI including mining technology advances and challenges, health and safety, environment, social performance and governance, and energy transitions," Mr Browne said.

"The delegation has been on several field visits to a variety of mining and other energy technology sites and associated and supporting infrastructure on the Darling Downs and Central Queensland.

"As part of this program and in preparation for the field trips, we engaged a number of government departments to ensure the Vietnamese have a good cross-section of understanding of what modern mining looks like in Queensland."

The week-long field trip around the Central Highlands also included a tour around Emerald's industrial area, a visit to a gem mining project and walk around Rubyvale, and a Blackwater mine visit where they observed rail coal loading operations.

Then on Thursday and Friday it was off to Gladstone for more industrial tours, coal ship loading and a Curtis Ferry tour of the harbour.

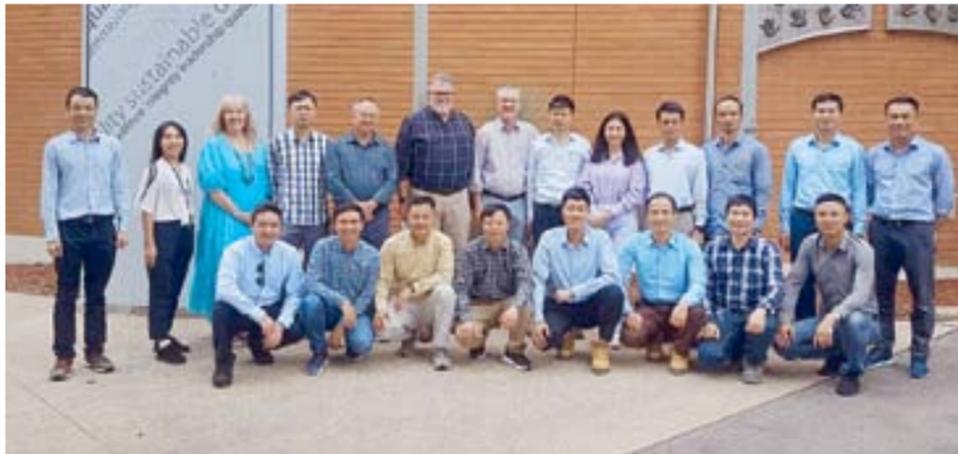
Mr Browne said the delegation seemed impressed with Australia's technology and approach to environmental care.

"I think they noticed Australia's more advanced technological approach and innovation to mining," he said.



The Vinacomin delegation visited large open-cut mines at Emerald and Blackwater and observed the dumping and loading areas for coal trains.

Picture: UQ



Central Highlands Regional Council welcomed the Vietnamese delegation to town earlier month.

Picture: SUPPLIED



Cr Desley O'Grady at Gladstone Council Chambers with the tour delegation from Vietnam last month.

Picture: GRC

"And they were impressed with the level of work health and safety and environmental care and rehabilitation of the land."

From February 9 to 12 the delegation explored the Gladstone Region with scheduled tours as well as leisure time.

Gladstone Regional Council Mayor Matt

Burnett said the delegation were very interested in the Gladstone Region Economic Transition Roadmap, as they are facing similar situations with large-scale carbon-intensive industries located adjacent to high value ecological sites like Ha Long Bay.

"They were also very interested in the Glad-

stone Healthy Harbour Partnership work and the report in terms of monitoring and reporting on water quality and ecology impacts," Cr Burnett said.

Councillor Desley O'Grady was on hand to answer questions around managing community impacts and how Gladstone had dealt with large-scale development in the past and some of the lessons learnt from that.

"There was also significant discussion around Council's Planning Schemes and planning for a change in the industrial landscape of Gladstone," Cr Burnett said.

"There was questioning about employment and training strategies and opportunities, and how to attract and retain people in the region.

"As you would expect there were a lot of questions about the region and its natural attractions and experiences to be had, which Councillor O'Grady is very adept at promoting.

"Like most delegations to Gladstone, they were impressed by the balance between world-class industrial operations, clustered around a working natural asset like the Port of Gladstone located in, and adjacent to, a world heritage area like the Great Barrier Reef.

"They were impressed by the balance between the industrial, environmental and community side.

They commented that the town was a world-class industrial centre but didn't look or feel like it.

"They were impressed by the planning and long-term thinking that had gone on around industrial precinct locations and access to strategic port land."

Mr Browne said it was great to see the world-class coal loading facilities at Gladstone.

"The complexity of what Gladstone Port achieves really impressed the delegation."



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Mine deaths investigated

By Fraser Barton, AAP Brisbane and Matthew Pearce, CQ Today

One of Australia's deadliest mining disasters in decades is under investigation after two workers were killed 100 metres underground when their ute fell down a void.

Dylan Langridge, 33, and Trevor Davis, 36, were working underground at MMG's Dugald River zinc mine near Cloncurry when their ute fell part-way down a 15m void on Wednesday, 15 February.

Rescuers found and extracted the ute a day later but the two men had died from their injuries.

Another worker was involved when the drill rig he was operating fell about 15m but he escaped with minor injuries.

The last time a double fatality occurred in a mining accident was in 2013 when two workers fell to their deaths at the Mount Lyell copper mine in Tasmania.

The tragedy marks the equal deadliest mining disaster since 1999, when an air blast killed four people at North Parkes in NSW.

Queensland Resources Minister Scott Stewart says the accident will have a deep impact across the community and mining industry.

"This is a tragic time in our mining history and while the industry is a very big industry in Queensland, it's still a very close-knit family and this will affect a lot of people," he said.

The mother of Mr Langridge's children paid tribute to him the following day.

"Nothing will ever stop me caring for you. The kids need their dad," she said in a Facebook post.

The men were employees of mining services company Barmenco, a subsidiary of ASX-listed firm Perenti.

Perenti chief executive Mark Norwell said the deaths of two workers was devastating.

"Our primary focus is that of support for the families and colleagues of Trevor and Dylan and in parallel completing a comprehensive investigation," he said.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese extended his condolences to the two men's families.

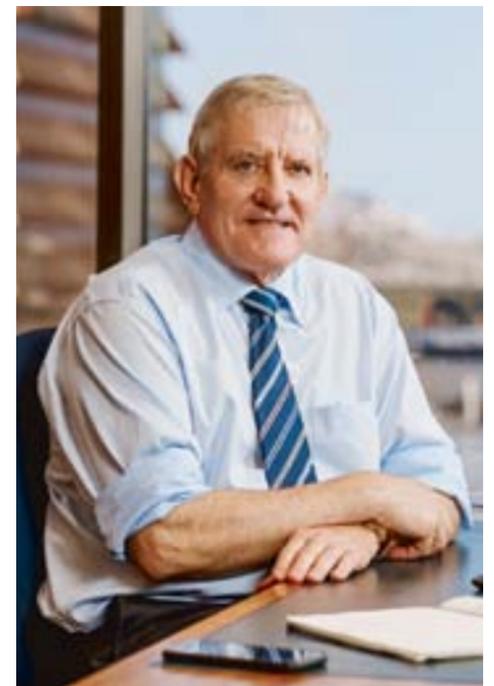
MMG chief executive Liangang Li insisted safety was the first value at the company and vowed to learn from the accident.

The Queensland Resources Council expressed its deepest condolences to the families



of the two men.

QRC chief executive Ian Macfarlane said it was a very sad day for all involved including family, friends, workmates, the emergency response team and local community.



Queensland Resources Council chief executive Ian Macfarlane.

thoughts and prayers were with the family, friends and colleagues of Mr Davis and Mr Langridge.

"The loss of a life in any workplace at any time is not acceptable. Families should be able to expect that when their loved ones depart for work that they return safely," he said.

Minerals Council of Australia CEO Tania Constable said the MCA was deeply saddened by the loss of two mine workers.

"We extend our sympathy to the family and colleagues of the workers and express our admiration for the significant efforts of the emergency response personnel," she said.

"The Australian mining industry's core value and commitment is the safety, health and psychological wellbeing of its workforce, where everyone who goes to work returns home safe and healthy.

"The industry recognises that meeting this commitment requires continuous vigilance to prevent all fatalities, injuries and occupational illnesses."

"A tragedy like this affects a wide circle of people, but at the heart of it are two families who are dealing with a tremendous loss. Our hearts go out to them."

Resources Minister Scott Stewart said his

Union welcomes report that highlights safety 'reprisals'

A report released last month which finds it's common practice for mine workers to be punished for raising safety concerns has been welcomed by the Mining and Energy Union.

Queensland District President of the Mining and Energy Union Steve Smyth says the Queensland Parliament's Inquiry into Coal Mining Industry Safety report backs up what is commonly known in the Queensland coal mining industry; namely that workers face

reprisal if they raise safety concerns.

"There are a number of key recommendations which need to be backed immediately by changes to the law," he said.

"In the last five years we have seen six deaths on the Queensland coalfields where no-one has been held responsible, no fines on companies, no disciplinary action for managers, we need these recommendations implemented immediately.

"The report recommends beefing up activity by the regulator, which is a no-brainer and should start immediately.

"It calls out clear tension between high coal production targets and safety.

"And it also reinforces the important role of unions in upholding safety.

"Most importantly it clearly accepts that repercussion for workers who raise safety concerns is rife in the industry and the report

recommends passing new laws to stop it, the Palaszczuk Government needs to start drafting these new laws today."

He said coal workers, in particular labour hire workers, fear being disciplined and sacked if they raise safety concerns.

"These measures need to be implemented urgently. Only in the last few weeks we have seen a spate of dozer accidents leading to serious injuries, we have no time to waste," Mr Smyth said.

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Partnership highlights need for Rocky water security

Advance Rockhampton and Rockhampton Regional Council have identified the need for water security both for our resident's needs, but just as importantly for the future advancement of key industry sectors.

Agriculture and the Fitzroy Food Bowl have been earmarked as an important industry growth opportunity for the region.

Through the Making Water Work Program, Advance Rockhampton is working closely with Rookwood Weir proponent, Sunwater, the Cooperative Research Centre for Northern Australia (CRCNA) and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Since its inception in 2019 this program has focused on developing the 'Fitzroy Food Bowl' through planning for new and innovative agriculture, maximising the largest river catchment on the eastern seaboard of Aus-

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**GREG BOWDEN
EXECUTIVE MANAGER**



tralia. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for Central Queensland farmers and I hope to share some more exciting news through our partnership with Sunwater on the Rookwood Landholder Support Scheme with the results of the second tranche of water sales to be announced soon.

Work on the \$367.2 million Rookwood Weir project is powering ahead. Now over 60

per cent complete, construction milestones are being ticked off, with more than 70,000 cubic metres of concrete poured. That's a lot of concrete!

It was great to see the local project acknowledged for its ongoing commitment to good, local jobs, as well as its sustainable design practices.

This project has seen more than \$150 million invested into the local Central Queensland economy already and behind the scenes preparation for maximum usage of agricultural water in the Rockhampton region is underway.

Rookwood Weir is just one of the many major projects powering our local economy. Recently Advance Rockhampton attended a community consultation session for the revival of the Mount Morgan Gold Mine.

It was fantastic to hear the excitement in the room from locals as Heritage Minerals outlined their upcoming plans for the site after receiving state and federal funding. So, watch this space!

Early works construction on the Rockhampton Ring Road are underway and the first phase of the project is expected to start later this year.

Advance Rockhampton will continue to advocate for local jobs on this project and I look forward to the next update from the Department of Transport and Main Roads surrounding the timeline and details of these early works packages.

These major projects are essential to our growth as a region, and I'll be doing whatever I can to continue putting Rocky on the Radar and advocating for even more!

Region now ready to roll

**Jobs
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WITH TIM O'BRIEN

As we shift into autumn I can confidently say that the expected seasonal lull we experience over the summer months in recruiting is now over.

Despite rising interest rates, inflation and the impact of global events, Australia, and Central Queensland, continue to have a buoyant labour market.

Vacancies in the region continue to be high and although by no means immune, the region is in a strong position to defy a probable recession.

However, not all businesses are impervious, and it is inevitable that many will be feeling the impact and facing harder times. While some local businesses will be letting go of employees amidst the downward global trend, there are a myriad of others ready to snap up candidates coming into the job market.

Hospitality, Healthcare and IT

Here in Central Queensland, we continue to see very high demand for workers in trade and industry and we welcome government initiatives to entice skilled workers to migrate to our country and region.

However, it is interesting to note that whilst we continue to focus on attracting engineers, surveyors, construction managers, accountants and doctors to our region, the workers in demand right now come from a very diverse skill set.

The hospitality and tourism industry features strongly in the list of in-demand workers, with chefs, cooks, waiters, barista's and kitchen hands all sought after.



The hospitality industry features strongly in the list of in-demand workers in CQ.

Healthcare professionals such as registered nurses and dentists, along with aged and disability support workers remain in high demand. IT is an industry where demand for professionals is growing, especially considering cyber safety and our growing reliance on cloud-based technological business solutions.

Opportunities to shift careers

With demand for workers widespread across the board, the opportunity for workers to shift professions and industries is greater than ever.

And although experience in a particular industry is always highly regarded, we are starting to see a shift towards technical up-skilling

of workers, where they leverage their existing skills alongside learning and development in new industries.

Transferrable skills such as customer service, can see workers transition from retail roles into IT support, both of which require good communication and patience with customers and clients.

Other skills in high demand that can shift across industries include teaching, project management and sales.

Whilst workers brush up on their skills and knowledge to move roles, employers also need to maintain their competitive edge in the jobs

market to ensure they are securing the top talent.

Employer branding

You may, or may not, have a formalised employee value proposition (EVP), but it is becoming increasingly important for employers to develop, or review their EVP in today's competitive jobs market. If you find your business has a high turnover of staff, or your job offers are being rejected, re-visiting your EVP is a really important step in ensuring that you are doing your best to align your employee offering with the wants and needs of current candidates.

Your EVP will sit closely alongside your brand, and as such it will be unique to your particular business. In considering your EVP, ask your existing staff what they value in the workplace, and what they would like to see introduced to increase their engagement. This can be a conversation or by survey.

You may be surprised that the top things your employees want are not necessarily focussed on reward and recognition. Job satisfaction, by way of meaningful and interesting work, challenging goals and growth opportunities are often desires revealed during the survey process.

Employers who articulate their EVP through their brand marketing can stand out from the competition and secure new workers. This is not only through the job advertisement itself, but your website, social media, networking events and very importantly, word of mouth, to name just a few.

Attracting new talent goes both ways

The opportunities are there for both skilled workers and businesses in Central Queensland to grow in the current economic climate. But in order to do so, it is just as important for businesses to brush up on their EVP and brand, as it is for candidates to demonstrate the latest relevant skills and stand out from the crowd.

For more information and insights about local job opportunities and recruitment support visit JobsinCentralQueensland.net.au

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Solar farm shines

By Brittney Manning

The Gladstone Engineering Alliance hosted an Industry Update breakfast on ACCIONA Energia's upcoming Aldoga Solar Farm project.

ACCIONA Energia's Director of Development Dmitry Danilovich said the 445MWp project, which is currently in development, is the company's first in Queensland.

"The 445MWp project will have a peak construction workforce of around 350 people drawing on Gladstone's rich manufacturing and industrial history," Mr Danilovich

"The Aldoga Solar Farm is ACCIONA Energia's first solar project in Queensland.

"We've recently been meeting with suppliers in and around Gladstone as part of our plan to source \$180 million in work from around the Gladstone area.

"We've partnered with the Gladstone Engineering Alliance (GEA) to help introduce us to the local industry that can help us build the project.

"The project is currently still in development but when completed will generate enough power for over 200,000 homes and support 10 full time jobs," he said.

ACCIONA General Manager Procurement and Supply Chain Rajeev Bhambari spoke to breakfast guests attended by 80 people.

Mr Bhambari spoke about opportunities to tender for work that will be sourced from Queensland businesses and how to register their business for tender and procurement opportunities.

Procurement opportunities will include construction services, earthworks and material suppliers to catering, accommodation and equipment providers.

Raj Bhambari, Daniela Veytia and Patrick Varas from ACCIONA Energia's also visited the region.



ACCIONA Energia's general manager Rajeev Bhambari at a GEA industry update on the developing Aldoga Solar Farm. Picture: SUPPLIED



Minerals Council of Australia CEO Tania Constable.

Mining sustains us

Mining continues to support jobs, the economy and government spending on essential services during difficult times for Australian families, according to the Minerals Council of Australia.

CEO Tania Constable said trade data for 2022 reveals record export revenue which will generate substantial tax and royalty returns, higher wages and strong regional communities.

"With a record high of \$461 billion in 2022, up 31 per cent from the previous record set in 2021, global demand for Australia's resources continues to underpin economic activity," Ms Constable said.

"This strong growth in revenue has also delivered Australia largest trade surplus (\$136 billion recorded in financial year 2022) at a time when it needed it the most.

"Coal contributed \$141 billion (up 123 per cent), iron ore \$123 billion, gold \$23 billion, aluminium (alumina and bauxite) \$15 billion (up 14 per cent) and copper \$12 billion.

"The export result delivers benefits for all Australians through the significant tax and royalties the mining industry pays to federal, state and territory governments."

In the last decade, mining companies have contributed \$143 billion in company tax, equivalent to five years' spending on the National Disability Insurance Scheme, and \$112 billion of royalties – payments that help fund vital government services including mental health, aged care and childcare. They also pay for schools, hospitals and critical infrastructure.

Ms Constable said the industry continues to pay the highest average wages, the most company taxes and is critical to supporting regions and communities – supporting 1.1 million jobs in the mining industry and its supply chains.

"This contribution cannot be taken for granted and governments must ensure that policies work to maintain international competitiveness, and to enable Australia to secure our share of the additional US\$100 billion of global mining investment needed every year to achieve net zero emissions by 2050," she said.

"When Australian mining does well, all Australians do well."

Industry inspires creative calendar

The challenge went out late last year for the children of Boyne Smelters Limited (BSL) teammates and local primary school students in the Boyne Island and Tannum Sands community to design the industry's 2023 calendar.

The brief: put on your creative thinking caps and draw an interpretation of BSL's vision - BSL Aluminium | Infinitely Recyclable | Here for Future Generations.

Children who submitted the winning artwork were invited to an awards ceremony at BSL's Kalori Conference and Training Centre where they were gifted a small prize at afternoon tea with BSL's General Manager and their parents.

BSL General Manager Lesley Bryce said students were very creative with their designs.

"The entries were fantastic and it was really interesting to see the interpretations of our vision by the children in our community," Ms Bryce said.

Community members who would like a copy of the calendar are encouraged to contact BSL at BSL.Info@riotinto.com.



BSL GM Lesley Bryce with student winners (L-R) Isabella Fredericks, Taylor Dewar, Heidi Hartsorn, Olive Iwikau, Matilda Boyle, Monika Leach, Saige Clements, Char-Lee Senior, Rebekah Ariens, Olivia Hill, Ruth Boyd and Seth Nowitzke. Picture: SUPPLIED



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Wool needs new blood

By Karen Simmons

The Remote Area Planning And Development board hosted its first Joint Alliance Workshop with an Attraction and Retention Workshop in Winton and via Zoom last week, with a focus on employment in the wool industry on the agenda.

The gathering brought together more than 25 council officers, program stakeholders, and state and federal agency representatives.

Deputy CEO, Morgan Gronold, said RAPAD's Joint Alliance brings together HR, Community Support and Economic Development officers from the seven councils of its region – Barcaldine, Barcoo, Blackall-Tambo, Boulia, Diamantina, Longreach and Winton.

“The aim of the group is to look at opportunities where we can share information, support and tackle common challenges for our communities, workforce, business and industry as a united region,” Mr Gronold said.

Australian Wool Innovation CEO John Roberts says it's important to attract the next generation into the wool industry.

“It has always been important to attract young people into the wool industry, but it is especially critical right now due to the labour shortages across the whole country that are affecting many industries,” Mr Roberts said.

“Shearer and wool handler training is a priority for AWI, but we are also working to attract new workers into the broader wool industry through education initiatives such as the Hay Inc Rural Education Program, the Peter Westblade Scholarship and the Young Farming Champions initiative.”

The central western Queensland wool industry is seeking 35 to 50 shearers and shed hands from Argentina, Uruguay, Chile and Mexico for 3 to 6 months to undertake a seasonal catch-up work pilot to begin as soon as possible.

Support is needed due to the resurgence of



The central Western Queensland wool industry is seeking 35 to 50 shearers and shed hands to fill labor shortages this season. Picture: SUPPLIED

the sheep and wool industry in the region and traditional seasonal workers, from NSW, Victoria, and New Zealand, not being available.

The pilot is based on what is occurring cur-

rently in other industries eg, people from Brazil and Kiribati being employed in the meat processing industry in Australia.

The Pacific Australia Labour Mobility

(PAML) federal government scheme allows eligible Australian businesses to hire workers from nine Pacific islands and Timor-Leste when there are not enough local workers available.

Longreach businesses are currently utilising this scheme to good effect with people from Kiribati.

Liza Cameron from Western Game Processors employs 16, they have been working there for the last three years, while Bolton Clark employs about 40.

People from Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Mexico who are already in Australia will be targeted initially then expanded to those in their home country. If the pilot is successful there is the opportunity for it to be developed into a long-term partnership to complement shearing seasons ie; Argentina shears from January to June and Queensland shears from May to September.

The Australian Workers Union, local graziers and the sheep and wool industry are supportive of the pilot.

RAPAD will develop a specific social media campaign to assist attract potential employees from Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Mexico who are already in Australia to showcase the opportunity and seek to attract:

- working holiday/work visa holders already in or heading to Australia.
- experienced shearers from Argentina who may already be working holiday visa holders.
- people who are interested in working in the shearing industry who may already be working holiday visa holders.
- people who are interested in working in the region who may already be working holiday visa holders.
- To provide shareable content for Argentinians in Australia social media platforms and beyond.

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Exceptional Woman in Queensland Resources Melanie Cooper, Qld Resources Council (QRC) Chief Executive Ian Macfarlane and Exceptional Young Woman in Queensland Resources Daisy Ambach.



Zoe Delroy from Redeemer Lutheran College, Biloela is one of the winners of the Exceptional Female QMEA Student award.

Plantation partners

Environmental not-for-profit, the Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG) has announced it will partner with Japanese firms Idemitsu and J-Oil Mills to establish the first ever commercial Pongamia (*Millettia Pinnata*) plantation in Australia, to produce sustainable biofuel for the Japanese aviation industry.

The consortium, which is receiving facilitation support from the Queensland Government, is another step towards the establishment of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) industry, according to BMRG's CEO, Sheila Charlesworth.

"Pongamia is nature positive - it not only gives more to nature than it takes out, its production will also create jobs," said Ms Charlesworth.

A native plant to India and Northern Australia, Pongamia has a high yield of oil that can be used in the creation of SAF, which makes it commercially viable. When it grows, it also draws CO₂ from the atmosphere, contributing to the aviation industry's drive to realise net zero air travel. Additionally, Pongamia can grow on degraded and unproductive land, providing carbon sequestration and biodiversity benefits to landowners. Ms Charlesworth said planting Pongamia trees will also create opportunities for local indigenous communities.

"We will be training traditional owner groups in the management and maintenance of the crop, its harvest and processing." "Pongamia is an amazing plant. It allows normal neighbouring plant growth and promotes biodiversity through the establishment of habitat for birds and other wildlife.

"As a legume, the crop also raises nitrogen levels in the soil, increasing its fertility, and provides opportunities for mixed agriculture on the plantations. The shell and seed by-product of processing can also contribute to the creation of feed for livestock," said Ms Charlesworth. The general manager of Carbon Neutral Transformation at Idemitsu, Mr Tanaka said the consortium has the potential to make a significant contribution to the development of a low-carbon economy.

"The demand for truly sustainable biofuels is huge. In Japan alone, our government has required that we replace 1.4 million tons of fossil fuels, with eco-friendlier alternatives for aviation by 2030. The potential for Pongamia to fulfil part of this demand is very exciting.

The General Manager of Future Creation Center of J-Oil Mills, Mr Takeda said today's announcement is an exciting development for their company.

"We are very pleased to partner with BMRG, the Queensland Government and Idemitsu to develop this sustainable biofuel opportunity in Australia," Mr Takeda said.

New era for women

The tide is turning for Queensland's \$94.6 billion resources sector, with more women than ever before working for mining and energy companies.

Women now make up a record 22 per cent of the workforce, up from almost 20 per cent last year.

Speaking at the Resources Awards for Women in Brisbane last week, held to coincide with International Women's Day and co-hosted with Women in Mining and Resources Queensland (WIMARQ), Queensland Resources Council (QRC) Chief Executive Ian Macfarlane said the industry's efforts to recruit and retain more female employees are paying off.

"The QRC's latest gender diversity data for 2021-22 shows women are seizing the opportunity to work in the mining and energy sector with both hands," he said.

"At a time when every industry in Australia is competing for skilled workers, initiatives to make our sector more flexible, diverse and inclusive are opening new doors for women to join or remain in our workforce.

"ABS figures show mine employees earn the highest average annual income in Australia, coming in at \$130,000, so it's great to see more women benefiting from the financial security offered by these well-paid and rewarding jobs."

The QRC report shows there's been a 10 per cent jump in the number of women working in non-traditional roles in the resources sector over the past financial year.

Another stand-out result is the 18 per cent increase in the number of women now working for mining and energy companies

in trade roles.

Mr Macfarlane said the percentage of women employed in trade positions has risen by more than 450 per cent over the past seven years, demonstrating women are interested in hands-on trade careers when given the opportunity.

He said while companies are heading in the right direction, all agree there is more work to be done to hit the industry's next target of 30 per cent female participation by 2026.

"Research by the Workplace Gender Equality Agency has found more diverse workplaces are more productive, innovative and provide a more positive working environment for men and women, so resources companies are very motivated to continue down this path," he said.

Mr Macfarlane and WIMARQ co-chair Sally Raynor also named this year's winners in the Resources Awards for Women, with Rio Tinto's Brisbane-based Global Head of Equity Inclusion and Diversity Melanie Cooper taking out the top Exceptional Woman in Queensland Resources award.

The winner of the Exceptional Young Woman in Queensland Resources is Senior Project Engineer Daisy Ambach, Glencore Qld Metals, Mount Isa.

The winner of the Exceptional Woman in Qld Resources in Technological Innovation award is Data Science Lead Joana Sousa, BHP, Brisbane.

The winner of the Exceptional Tradeswoman/Technician/Operator in Qld Resources award is Maintenance Supervisor Jacqueline

Kelly, Shell QGC, Chinchilla.

The winner of the Excellence in Diversity Programs and Performance in Qld Resources award is Rio Tinto for its Indigenous Leadership Program.

Joint winners of the Exceptional Female QMEA Student award are Zoe Delroy, Redeemer Lutheran College, Biloela; and Lianna Woodsbey, Good Shepherd Catholic College, Mount Isa.

The winner of the Inclusion and Diversity Champion in Queensland Resources award is Larissa Walker, Front End Development Manager, Shell QGC, Brisbane.

Mr Macfarlane congratulated all winners and finalists, saying they were part of a new, more inclusive era for women in resources.

"The resources sector will greatly benefit from your unique skills and perspectives, as we transition to a lower emissions future using the best available technology and practices."

WIMARQ co-chair Sally Rayner said the awards recognised the important contribution of women to the resources sector and celebrated the industry's gender diversity champions.

"It's exciting to see so many more women saying yes to the career opportunities available in resources, whether that's working in an office, a lab, on a mine site or at a gas field," she said.

"We're putting out the welcome mat for more women to bring their skills and experience to our industry because a more diverse workplace is a more positive and productive environment for all employees."

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No damage, says Bravus

Bravus Mining and Resources says new groundwater modelling using five years of expert, on-the-ground, science has proved open-cut mining at the Carmichael mine has not, and will not, harm the Doongmabulla Springs.

A Bravus spokesperson said an Environmental Protection Order issued by the State Government relates to potential future underground mining at the Carmichael mine, which they have already publicly committed to re-modelling.

The Order was issued after Bravus submitted an updated groundwater model for the area of the Carmichael mine and its surrounds to the Queensland Government as per the requirements of the Groundwater Management and Monitoring Plan, one of the suite of State or Commonwealth regulatory documents that form the operation's rigorous environmental approvals.

'No breach of our Environmental Authority or any environmental harm has occurred and day-to-day mining operations at Carmichael in Central Queensland continue as normal,' they said.

'The Order also has no bearing on our future open-cut mining operations, which world's best groundwater science has proven will not harm the Doongmabulla Springs.'

At the heart of the new groundwater model is data that expert hydrogeologists collect and record every two months from a network of more than 120 monitoring bores on Bravus' mining and pastoral leases and on neighbouring landholders' properties.

Surface water samples are collected from another 15 locations including the Doongmabulla springs complex, which is a grouping of individual groundwater springs that naturally discharge water from the Great Artesian Basin. The nearest of the springs is located about 11 kilometres from any mine activity at Carmichael.

Bravus Mining and Resources Chief Operating Officer Mick Crowe said the peer-reviewed



Experienced hydrogeologists collect and record groundwater data at more than 135 locations.

Picture: SUPPLIED

data was the most comprehensive scientific understanding of groundwater in the local area and demonstrated the process of environmental checks and balances for the mine was working well.

'The Carmichael mine has some of the strictest environmental conditions of any resources project in Australia's history,' he said.

'As part of those conditions we have been measuring groundwater levels in and around the mining area for the last five years and have now submitted that information to the Queensland Government.

'The work we've done shows that we are not dropping the level of the water in the Doongmabulla springs complex with any of the open-

cut surface mining we are undertaking now.

'The expert modelling also demonstrates that future open-cut surface mining will not cause water levels in the springs, the nearest of which is about 11 kilometres away from our mining activities, to drop.

'While we are not doing any underground mining now, the new model does indicate we have additional work to do on our future underground mining plans to ensure they do not cause water levels in the springs to fall by more than the 20 centimetres after mining occurs, which is one of our regulatory conditions.

'Protecting the springs has always been a top priority for us as we understand both their value to the Traditional Owners of the area and

their inherent environmental value, and we will now use the science and the model to re-work our future underground mining plans to ensure we comply with our approvals.

'This process shows the right checks and balances are in place to protect groundwater, however anti-coal activists have begun a misinformation campaign to twist the truth to try to dupe the community into believing that our mine will damage the springs. This is absolutely not the case.

'Queenslanders can be confident we are mining in a way that protects the environment and sites of cultural significance and will continue to create local jobs and business opportunities for generations.'

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Clinton students employing their brains in fun activities.



Boyne Island Sate School with Role model Julia O'Niell from AngloAmerican.



ConocoPhillips rep Rhianna Cardamone with Calliope State School students.

Industry down with kids

More than 1100 Queensland schoolkids went hands-on with Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) after being visited by various resources and energy sector employers.

The Bright Future STEM Program, designed and delivered by the Australian Resources and Energy Employer Association (AREEA), visited four schools recently in Central Queensland - Moura State School, Calliope State School, Boyne Island State School and Clinton State School - alongside Anglo American, Howden Australia and ConocoPhillips.

Those visits saw 560 students aged 9-12 learn about the variety of STEM-based careers and engage with role models working within those fields.

As part of the program students will also receive role model talks from Anglo American, Howden Australia, ConocoPhillips and Santos.

AREEA deputy chief executive Tara Diamond said the team enjoyed working alongside industry employees and engaging with schools and teachers across Central Queensland.

"Bright Future STEM uses a combination of industry role models and hands-on interactive activities to teach students about the range of STEM careers in the mining, oil and gas and renewable energy industries," Ms Diamond said.

"It has become crucial for the future of our industry to get the younger generations interested in studying STEM fields.

"While there are many STEM initiatives aimed at high school and tertiary, the Bright Future STEM program piques an interest in these subjects from an earlier age. Research shows 9-12 years is a critical age to expose kids to STEM subjects and the real-world careers in which they are applied.

"AREEA thanks the professionals from Anglo American, Howden, ConocoPhillips and Santos who volunteered their time to help spread the STEM message."



Calliope State School teachers and students with Howden Australia's Catherine Ritchie and Jareth Laxamana, ConocoPhillips' Sophie Ovenden, and Bright Future STEM coordinator Olivia Porter. Pictures: SUPPLIED

The Bright Future STEM Program is a unique opportunity for students to meet a range of STEM skilled role models working

in the sector. Emphasis is placed on exposing schoolkids to female role models in the industry given the low female representation in both

STEM studies and the resources industry.

The program visited a further 550 schoolkids in Brisbane last month.

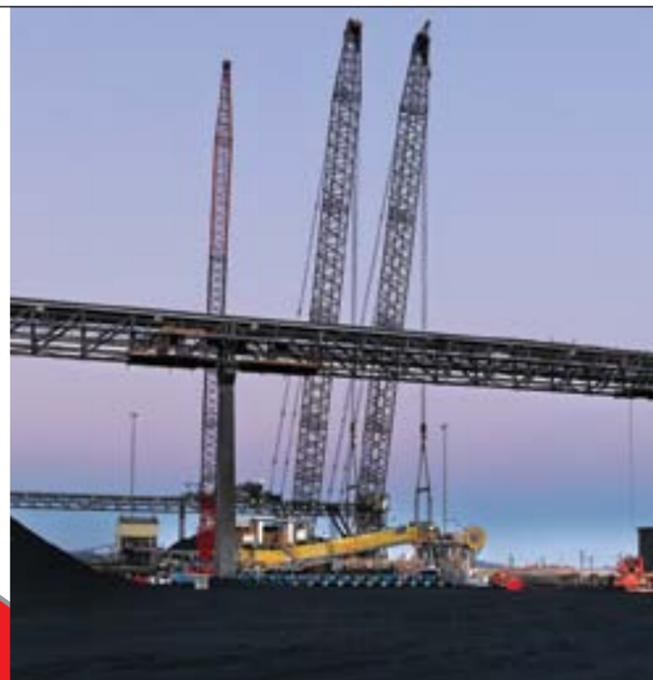


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Stanwell employees and guests celebrate 30 years since the power station's first commercial load.



Stanwell Power Station site manager Angie Zahra.

Angie 'grew up' at Stanwell

Joining Stanwell Corporation in 1992 as a Chemical Technician, Angie Zahra jokes: "I grew up at Stanwell".

One of the early workforce members to oversee the final days of construction at Stanwell Power Station, Angie has forged a successful three-decade career, and harnessed multiple opportunities in an otherwise male-dominated industry.

From project management to leadership roles, Angie has held positions such as team leader, business manager and production manager at Stanwell Power Station. During this time, Angie said her career was still able to flourish and she was able to have two children.

In 2018, Angie moved into Stanwell Power Station's acting site manager role, successfully being appointed to the position in February 2020.

Under Angie's leadership Stanwell Power Station has been instrumental in supporting Queensland's energy demands as one of the most efficient and reliable power stations in the National Electricity Market.

Angie's focus on driving an environment of excellence while fostering positive people outcomes has set a strong foundation to see Stanwell's people at the forefront of the energy transformation.

An advocate of Stanwell's commitment to gender equity, Angie fosters an environment at Stanwell that improves business outcomes by putting women at the table.

CEO looks back at 30 years' progress

By Stanwell CEO Michael O'Rourke

On Wednesday 1 March 2023 we celebrated 30 years since the first commercial load at Stanwell Power Station.

From the first sod turning in 1980 to the commissioning of the first unit in 1993 and then unit 4 in 1996, SPS has efficiently, safely and reliably powered Queensland homes and businesses.

It was a joy to join with current and former Stanwell Power Station employees, community representatives and the Premier and the Treasurer of Queensland to mark this anniversary and thank all the Stanwell team members who have contributed to power station's successful operations over the years.

Through floods, cyclones, a pandemic, and even the war between Russia and Ukraine that has challenged the entire energy industry, Stanwell Power Station has continued to operate and even excel.

Stanwell Power Station has achieved two world records: Unit 4 was recognised in 2002

for 1,073 days of continuous operation by the Guinness World Records, followed by Unit 1 achieving a world record for 1087.9 days of continuous operation in 2015.

There will always be more challenges ahead, but I strongly believe there will equally be more opportunities for the next thirty years as we evolve with our rapidly changing industry.

At the anniversary event, the Premier announced the installation of a 150Mw/300Mwh battery storage system adjacent to Stanwell Power Station, with work to begin later this year.

This is part of the next stage in the life of Stanwell Power Station: fast-forward another thirty years and I'm confident our site and our people will still be a vital part of the Rockhampton community, and still helping power Queensland homes and businesses - but with wind and sunshine.

On behalf of myself, the Stanwell Board and Stanwell teams, I congratulate the team at Stanwell Power Station on this milestone.



Stanwell CEO Michael O'Rourke

Supporting Central Queensland communities for 30 years

On 1 March 2023 Stanwell Power Station celebrated 30 years since it commenced supplying electricity into the grid.

Over the past three decades, through our community benefit programs, Stanwell has worked alongside countless passionate community groups to improve people's lives in the greater Rockhampton region. Last year, 40 community initiatives, projects and events received financial assistance.

By engaging with local businesses and employing over 200 Central Queenslanders Stanwell Power Station has played a significant role in energising the local economy.

The past 30 years is just part of our journey and as we embark on our exciting energy transformation, we look forward to strengthening our existing bonds with the local community, the supply chain and being an employer of choice in Central Queensland.



www.stanwell.com





The team from Stanwell Power Station in 2006.



Construction of the chimney base.

With this month marking 30 years since the first commercial load at Stanwell, the power station team has shared a collection of photos from the past three decades. Who do you recognise?

Three decades of pride



Inside the cooling tower.



Constructing the chimney base.



The building frame goes up.



An aerial view of Stanwell Power Station in 2000.



Mark Hamilton in the Austa Energy Corporation days.



The technology has changed over the years.



Turbine House Cladding - East Wall Unit 1, taken in 1989.



The control room in years past.



Simon Gorbachinski, Andrea Tynan and Bruce Hamilton.



Hard at work in 1995.



Looking back at the station's early days.



In the workshop in the Austa days.



Dedicated to the job.



Stanwell employees with Annastacia Palaszczuk and special guests.



Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk addresses the crowd.

Looking forward and back

By Matthew Pearce

Stanwell Power Station employees celebrated 30 years of operations on Wednesday, 1 March, at a special lunch alongside special guest Annastacia Palaszczuk.

In her speech to the crowd, the Premier announced that work would start this year on the installation of a 150Mw/300Mwh battery storage system adjacent to the power station.

The CREZ battery, which will be up and running by the second quarter of 2025, will create about 80 full-time jobs during construction and six full-time operational and maintenance jobs over the 20-year life of the battery.

Local contractors will be used on the project, which will compliment another battery being installed near Tarong.

Ms Palaszczuk said battery storage would be increasingly important in Queensland as the energy market transforms.

“Stanwell’s batteries will be located within renewable energy zones, supporting new build renewables to come online while also ensuring system security and reliability at key points of Queensland’s electricity network,” she said.

Stanwell CEO Michael O’Rourke said the batteries would be charged during periods of high renewable energy generation and discharged during periods of peak demand.

Mr O’Rourke also officially opened Stanwell’s new SPS Weighbridge on Wednesday, in partnership with Cement Australia.

In construction from early 2022, the weighbridge will be used to record coal combustion products’ offtake as well as for monitoring and weighing other loads such as waste material.

Stanwell and Cement Australia have signed a new, five-year-minimum, offtake agreement for fly ash, which will enable Cement Australia to manufacture cement and concrete products using Stanwell’s ash.



Staff at the anniversary lunch.



Stanwell Power Station celebrates its 30th anniversary this year.



Staff celebrate Stanwell’s 30th anniversary.

In spotlight: Walz CEO

Coming from a finance background, Matthew Campiutti has been an integral part of the Walz team for more than nine years.

His early experience with one of the 'big four' accounting firms laid solid foundations for a career in finance, and from there, Matthew built his capability in the resources sector.

He came on board with Walz in 2013 as chief financial officer, having responsibility for the overall management of the finance team.

In June 2018 Matthew took on the role of chief executive officer, which now sees him working alongside the company's shareholders to lead the future strategy of the business.

Matthew is a pragmatic and collaborative manager who leads by example. He believes in investing time in developing people to grow with the business and is proud of the family-like culture within Walz.

He is focused on ensuring Walz can continue to be responsive to an ever-changing landscape in the resources sector.

Matthew is passionate about continuing to drive the strong commitment to safety which the company has become known for.



Matt Campiutti.

Gas is far from cooked

By Andrew Brown, AAP Canberra

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has affirmed gas projects will still play a role alongside renewable energy, despite a Greens call to scrap fossil fuel projects for the party to back the safeguard mechanism.

The mechanism would lead to the biggest 215 polluters being forced to cap their emissions, with companies that breach the limit required to buy carbon offsets or trade their emissions with other firms.

It is a key plank of the government's effort to reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

A Senate inquiry report recommended parliament pass the mechanism, but the Greens have said the scheme would lead to an increase in pollution from coal and gas.

Greens leader Adam Bandt has not said whether the party would back the proposal, because of concerns over its implementation.

The prime minister told the Australian Financial Review's Business Summit gas projects were needed.

"(Businesses) want to move towards renewables and to power them but they need the firming capacity of gas," he told the summit last week.

He said standing in the way of the safeguard mechanism being approved by parliament would have a "negative impact".

"Then you're not actually helping the transition," Mr Albanese said.

Mr Bandt said while the Greens were still locked in good-faith negotiations with the government, new coal and gas projects were not needed as part of the mechanism.

"What is becoming clearer by the day is there is no justification economically or environmentally for opening up new coal and gas projects," he told reporters in Canberra.

"The government thinks there is, and as of yet, they haven't convinced us, or I suspect the Australian people, that there is any case for opening up new coal and gas projects."

However, Mr Bandt stressed the call to scrap new projects was not an ultimatum.

He said the party was open to concessions in other areas, such as a pause on new projects or a climate trigger in environmental approval laws.

"We're prepared to look at all of those. So at the end of the day, this is a test for the government."

"Ultimately, the government has to justify why it wants to keep opening new coal and gas. We want to see pollution from coal and gas go down because it's the main cause of the climate crisis."

Climate Change Minister Chris Bowen remains confident of parliament passing plans to cap emissions, despite the cross-bench concerns.

"The opportunity for the parliament is to seize or squander this chance to get emissions down by 205 million tonnes," he told ABC Radio.

OPINION

Glenn Butcher
Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing
and Minister for Water, Member for Gladstone



Forefront of clean energy

Central Queensland is blessed with good resources and people, and the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan will ensure the sun continues to shine on the region.

The \$62 billion Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan is the biggest investment in clean energy and emissions reduction in Australia's history.

It will power Queensland with 70 per cent renewable energy by 2032, and 80 per cent by 2035, propelling us toward net zero emissions by 2050.

It'll mean lower household bills and around \$9 billion in investment in Central Queensland by 2040 so the region can continue as an industrial behemoth.

The Central Queensland Hydrogen Hub at Gladstone State development area will provide up to 8900 new jobs and \$12.4 billion to Queensland's Gross State Product over 30 years.

Fortescue Future Industries is building the world's largest electrolyser facility and the

Federal Government is investing \$69 million for a hydrogen hub in Gladstone.

The State Government has announced an almost \$1 billion pipeline from Fitzroy to Gladstone and Powerlink is investing \$365 million on grid reinforcement as an artery for more renewable energy.

The region has public ownership of the Port of Gladstone, a gateway to a world yearning for clean energy and decarbonisation.

But most importantly, Central Queensland has the right people. Good people.

That is why the Government developed a Queensland Energy Workers' Charter and our publicly owned corporations are recruiting 2300 workers to build the SuperGrid.

We're also building a \$45 million transmission training facility in Gladstone and investing in schools to help prepare skilled workers for tomorrow. Central Queensland is central to our clean energy revolution. It will mean thousands of new jobs in mining, processing and manufacturing. So get involved.



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An industry get-together

Last month 34 people attended RMS Engineering and Construction's industry gathering at CocoBrew in Rockhampton, connecting with each other and sharing the part they play in our region.

Check out **PETER LYNCH'S** photos from the event and see who was spotted out and about.



On Track Hire's Mick Barnes and Smyth Financial's Jason Smyth.



Beau Thomas from TOBE Artists and RSM's Graham Sheppard.



Phil Henry from Capricornia Chamber of Commerce, Brad Johnston from My Local IT and Arty Stokes from Stokes Mining.



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Total System price, Automatic, to top of bore:	"Complete. \$5290 incl GST

Pump Model:	4HRSS-H
4 x 330 -Watt Panel Post Mount System.	18,000 Ltrs Per Day at Total Head of 30 Mtrs.
Total System Price, Automatic to top of bore:	"Complete. \$7535 incl GST

Note: All models come complete with Low Water Probe Protection, as standard inclusion.

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Plenacura director Simon Lever and friends at the industry breakfast.



Advance Rockhampton's Mary Ryan with Graham Sheppard and Alison Sheppard from Smyth Financial and Arty Stokes.



Tom Searl from Vision Surveys with Mick Allen from NBN and Richard Austin from the Manufacturing Hub.



David Lacy from Idetect and Danny Carr from Complete Modular Solutions Qld.



More than 30 representatives of CQ businesses attended.



Industry representatives converged on CocoBrew in William St, Rockhampton.



Industry leaders catch up and compare notes.



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Gender gap still in place

The Sunshine State's bio-industries are set to skyrocket, sparking demand from women for insights on how they can reach the top jobs in the fast-growing sector.

The biomedical industry's annual gross value added to Queensland's economy has surged by 47 per cent to \$2.11 billion in the past five years, creating 3000 more jobs.

Already home to about 1500 biomedical and life sciences companies, this growth shows no signs of slowing down with healthcare giants such as Sanofi choosing Queensland to set up a global vaccine hub.

Deputy Director-General of State Development, Michele Bauer, said this boom meant flow-on benefits for the economy, and more opportunities for women to progress into leadership roles.

"It's an exciting time to be in the sector, with opportunities to join the growing number of bio-businesses in Brisbane and regional Queensland," Ms Bauer said.

"While a growing number of women are in the STEM workforce, female leadership is still under-represented with women holding 23 per cent of senior management roles.

"Women in bio-industries have told us they want targeted professional development and insights on career pathways, and we're backing them to get to that next level."

It comes as the Department of State Development holds its first industry forum for women in biomedicine and biotechnology this month in collaboration with the University of the Sunshine Coast Moreton Bay.

"We're growing this sector to attract new investment to Queensland and create more specialised jobs that could shape the future of healthcare," Ms Bauer said.

"It's important to stage this type of event to allow emerging and aspiring female leaders to gain insights into industry opportunities and challenges, hear from inspiring women in this field and make valuable contacts across



Georgia Kafer leads a foetal and reproductive health laboratory at the University of the Sunshine Coast

the bio-industries.

"To build a highly-skilled workforce we must attract and keep top biomedical talent here – and that includes our best and brightest

female researchers and innovators.

"Queensland has become the ideal place to learn, teach or work with high-value businesses and world-class researchers and clinicians

across a range of sectors.

"Being on the map as a bio-industries hotspot also means you don't have to go overseas to get experience. You can build your career right here in Queensland."

The industry and networking forum on 21 February will bring together more than 100 Queensland women in the biomedical and biotechnology sectors.

Leading the way in lab and classroom

For reproductive physiologist Georgia Kafer, inspiring the next generation of scientists is all in a day's work.

Leading a foetal and reproductive health laboratory at the University of the Sunshine Coast, Dr Kafer collaborates with a variety of scientists from many disciplines across Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Pacific Islands region on science and public health research projects. The lecturer in Biomedical Science at the University's Moreton Bay campus is passionate about sharing that experience in the classroom and encourages Queensland girls and women to explore a biomedical career.

"Building a successful career in STEM is hard for everyone, but it is extra challenging for women and girls for a variety of reasons," Dr Kafer said.

"I was very fortunate to have a strong female mentor during my PhD at CSIRO, and I am still very fortunate to have fantastic female collaborators and colleagues both at UniSC and across the globe who I can bounce ideas off and feel supported by.

"Sharing experiences is a great way to make the proverbial 'waters' warm and welcoming for women and girls who might want to dip their toes or perhaps even immerse themselves completely in a STEM career."

To learn more about the sector and Queensland's Biomedical 10-Year Roadmap, visit statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/industry/priority-industries/biomedical

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CS Energy CEO resigns

CS Energy announced on Monday that Andrew Bills will step down as Chief Executive Officer, following his appointment as Chief Executive Officer of SA (South Australia) Power Networks.

Mr Bills said he led CS Energy, a publicly-owned company which owns most of the Callide Power Station, through an evolution from a wholesale generator to a diversified energy business.

"While the decision to leave CS Energy was a difficult one, I am confident the business is very well placed with highly committed and capable people and a substantial pipeline of new energy investments to lead Queensland's energy transformation," Mr Bills said.

"I am looking forward to the opportunity to build on the impressive performance that SA Power Networks has delivered over many years.

"South Australia is at the forefront of renewables in Australia and SA Power Networks has a key role to play in the energy transition," he said.

Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen Mick de Brenni thanked Mr Bills for his service during a "particularly challenging time" for the company.

"Given the global attention on our plan, I fully support the board's decision in taking its time to appoint a new CEO," Minister de Brenni said.

"Our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan is a nation leading blueprint that charts a course for CS Energy to transform its power stations into Clean Energy Hubs by 2035, invests in a new 200 MW hydrogen-ready gas peaking power station, and delivers job security for its workforce."

SA (South Australia) Power Networks board chair Peter Tulloch said Mr Bills would bring extensive energy industry experience to the business and "has big shoes to fill" following the retirement of former chief executive of 13 years, Rob Stobbe.

CS Energy Chairman Jim Soorley said Mr Bills was integral in guiding the business



CS Energy chief executive Andrew Bills has announced he will resign. Picture: SUPPLIED

through a period of unprecedented industry change.

"Andrew has played a significant role in shaping the business' growth strategy and positioning CS Energy to play a leading role in the energy transformation," Mr Soorley said

"He leaves with the Board's deepest gratitude and best wishes."

Mr Soorley said the Board will work closely with Andrew and the management team to ensure a smooth transition, with a final date and transition arrangements for an Acting Chief Executive Officer to be confirmed shortly.

"In the meantime, the business remains focused on delivering for Queenslanders, with an exciting pipeline of renewable, storage and hydrogen investments and development of clean energy hubs at our power station sites," Mr Soorley said.



An Australian first study has shown what workers want from a career in the rural industries.



Lead researcher and Voconiq CEO Dr Kieren Moffat said the data shows the importance of closing the gap to align the perceptions of community members and workers more closely.

Research ‘game-changer’

An Australian first study has found that changing how community members view a career in agriculture, fisheries or forestry, could hold the key to securing a reliable and dynamic rural industries workforce for the future.

The research, undertaken by data science company Voconiq as part of AgriFutures Australia’s Community Perceptions and Worker Experiences Research Program, involved surveying more than 5,000 people to understand the key drivers of workforce retention and attraction across rural industries.

AgriFutures Australia Managing Director, John Harvey said the research is a game changer for the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors.

“We now have data on what workers want from a career in rural industries, why people have left the workforce, what will attract more workers from other sectors,” Mr Harvey

said. “What is clear from the results is that rural industry workers are much more positive about a career in the sector than those from the community.

“Many community perceptions about working in rural industries are still based on stereotypes, such as having to live regionally or work in a paddock with livestock or crops.”

Lead researcher and Voconiq CEO Dr Kieren Moffat said the data shows the importance of closing the gap to align the perceptions of community members and workers more closely.

“The data suggests this gap can be closed if community members can learn more about the actual experiences of rural industry workers to develop a more realistic understanding of what a role in one of these industries can look like.

“There is also an education component to help potential recruits understand that agricultural, fisheries and forestry jobs can be based in a metropolitan area, involve working with advanced technologies, and be office-based,” he said.

“Importantly 13 per cent of community members surveyed said they are very or extremely likely to consider working in rural industries. That represents at least 1.7 million people which is a huge number considering the current rural industries workforce is around 280,000 people.”

The Community Perceptions and Worker Experiences Research Program delivers key insights into community perceptions on working in agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries, and explore worker experiences and the impact it has on workforce attraction and retention.

The Project is funded by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and is a component of the Australian Government’s AgATTRACT initiative.

Other key insights from the research, include:

- 18 per cent of community members surveyed believe that Australian rural industries have not changed much in the last 50 years.
- 54 per cent of workers surveyed intend to stay in rural industries for more than 10 years.
- 70 per cent of workers think there are meaningful careers in rural industries.
- 69 per cent of workers surveyed said that they agree/strongly agree that new technologies will make rural industries a more attractive career in the future.

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BSL GM Lesley Bryce welcomes 2023 BITS students sharing with them her own career journey and the work she does at Boyne Smelters. Pictures: SUPPLIED



Lexi McKee, Sarah Morton, Lesley Bryce, Trina Fitzsimmons, Lynn Lapham.

Students learn with BSL

Boyne Smelters Limited (BSL) welcomes the 2023 Business, Industry and Tourism Skills Centre (BITS) students back to our operations for the continuation of our partnership, which so far spans more than 15 years.

To commence their studies in certificates in Workplace Skills, Business, Tourism and Active Volunteering, 41 students completed site safety inductions and participated in a meet and greet with BSL General Manager Lesley Bryce.

Students complete certificate courses onsite at BSL for one full day per week, giving them exposure to industry mentors, activi-

ties and business enterprise tasks. This assists youth in transitioning into careers or further education and/or training by providing real work learning opportunities.

"BSL are here for future generations, and this includes our young people here in the Boyne Tannum community," Ms Bryce said.

"We are proud to continue our partnership with the BITS Program again in 2023."

BITS Coordinator, Sarah Morton said they were excited to start 2023 with a full program of activities for the students.

"It will be a pleasure to watch these young people mature and embrace the work-ready transferrable skills that we foster at the BITS Centre," Ms Morton said.

"BITS could not run without the generous support from BSL and we are grateful for this long-standing relationship."

BITS, formally EBITS, was established in 2006, and offers the opportunity for year 10, 11 and 12 students to learn in an authentic workplace environment.

Students complete their certificate courses

onsite at Boyne Smelters for one full day per week with exposure to industry mentors, activities and tasks.

This assists youth in transitioning into careers or further education and/or training by providing real work learning opportunities.

BITS prepares students for further learning, assists with expanding career choices and equips them with well-developed employability skills where they are able to embark on traineeships, apprenticeships and other employment options within local industry.

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Engineering skill shortage

Latest analysis of the Jobs and Skills Australia's Internet Vacancy Index data by Engineers Australia shows the country is still in the grip of an engineering skills shortage despite knock-on effects of a tumultuous construction industry.

Engineers Australia CEO Romilly Madew AO says rising material costs and the collapse of two major players has left the \$237 billion national five-year pipeline of infrastructure projects with fewer contractors who can deliver, contributing to blown-out budgets and increased project slippage.

"The construction sector is already overstretched and operating at capacity and the impact on engineering vacancies is noticeable," Ms Madew said.

"In 2022 we saw two distinct phases across states and territories; growth in the first half of the year, and plateau or decline in the second. Nationally, engineering vacancies increased overall by 22 per cent, peaking in July and stagnant by December.

"State and territory trends were similar, with all major states reporting increased vacancies for the year, despite declines in the September and December quarters."

Engineers have remained in the spotlight with several major stimulus projects from the Commonwealth Government relying on the profession's skills and expertise. However, the engineering skills shortage shows no end in sight, with demand continuing to outstrip supply.

"Infrastructure Australia forecasts labour demand in 2023 to grow by 42,000 to a peak of 442,000, more than doubling the projected available supply. Australia needs to explore new and innovative ways to build its engineering capability, including how we support migrant engineers.

"Engineers Australia research has shown there is a significant cohort of migrant engineers already in Australia who have long-term difficulties securing employment appropriate



Engineers Australia CEO Romilly Madew AO.

to their experience. Tapping into this latent supply offers one means of easing skills shortages."

Analysis of the Jobs and Skills Australia's Internet Vacancy Index data to June 2022 shows:

- Engineering vacancies up 22 per cent nationally 2022 despite a stagnant second half of the year.
- Engineering vacancies have grown by 80 per cent nationally over the past 2 years, com-

pared to 42 per cent for all averaged Australian occupation vacancies.

- Queensland showed the highest growth among the major states in 2022 with a 44 per cent increase. NSW is where with the greatest number of engineering vacancies have been generated, followed by Queensland, WA, Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania. ACT is the best performing of the territories.
- Major states reported increased vacancies for the year, though they recorded limited or

negative growth in the September and December quarters.

- The engineering profession remains resilient amid global economic uncertainty, supported by considerable fiscal stimulus, mainly in transport infrastructure, renewable energies, and defence.
- The profession continues to experience a shortage of critical engineering skills throughout Australia due to increased projects requiring engineering skills.

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Regions set for upgrades

By NBN Local Update

NBN Local is pleased to announce that an additional one million additional homes and businesses became eligible for full fibre on 13 February.

NBN and the Australian Government have released the latest suburbs and towns where additional premises will have become eligible to get fibre connected to their house or business by ordering an eligible wholesale speed tier1 - with up to 58 5 located in regional areas and the rest in metro areas.

The NBN Local Central Queensland team have been advocating for our region to be included in the upgrades and we have had some wins, with a number of towns across the region listed in this round of upgrades.

The following towns are included in the current round of upgrades which will occur from now and into 2024: Agnes Water, Airlie Beach, Allenstown, Barlow's Hill, Berserker, Blackwater, Bowen, Boyne Island, Bucasia, Capalaba, Clermont, Clinton, Cooee Bay, Dysart, Emerald, Frenchville, Gladstone Central, Kawana, Kin Kora, Marian, Mirani, Moranbah, Norman Gardens, North Mackay, Park Avenue, Rockhampton City, Sarina, Slade Point, South Gladstone, Tannum Sands, The Range, Walkerston, Wandal, Yeppoon, Zilzie.

These upgrades are part of the NBN fibre upgrade program - which was boosted by the Federal Government's recent announcement of an additional \$2.4 billion investment.

Full fibre connection to the NBN network offers customers access to the higher speed tiers, which delivers a better, more reliable internet experience for homes and businesses.

The enhancements to the NBN network to deliver faster speeds and more data reflect and support business and societal changes over the last two years.

According to Venture research commissioned by NBN, online health consultations have increased by 147 per cent, online secondary educational engagement has grown by 114 per cent and a third of people who can work from



NBN fibre installation.

home now expect to continue working from home at least one day a week. Other benefits of higher speeds include:

- Faster uploads and downloads for homes and businesses
- Faster game upgrades
- Faster streaming – making it easier to work from home, and a more enjoyable movie experience

The benefits are even greater for larger households with many high bandwidth devices being used at the same time.

More speed is better for when the whole

family is streaming online at the same time – working from home, gaming, and watching movies.

NBN is on track to enable up to 10 million premises, or up to 90 per cent of homes and businesses across Australia to access NBN Home Ultrafast, offering wholesale download speeds of 500 Mbps to close to 1 Gbps, by the end of 2025.

To trigger an upgrade, customers at eligible premises need to place an order with a retailer which is based on one of nbn's three highest residential wholesale speed tiers.

To see if you are eligible and learn more visit:

www.nbn.com.au/fibreupgrade

Report shows how heavy industry could decarbonise

A new report has, for the first time in Australia, outlined decarbonisation pathways that show it is possible for five of Australia's most significant heavy industry supply chains to transition to net zero, consistent with global efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C.

The Australian Industry Energy Transitions Initiative (ETI) says their third and final report, done in collaboration with companies representing around a fifth of Australia's industrial emissions and a third of the ASX100 market value, finds strong, effective and coordinated action from government, industry and finance is crucial for the net zero transition.

It identifies five objectives to enable heavy industry to transition to net zero emissions consistent with global efforts to limit warm-

ing to 1.5°C. They are for Australia to:

- Set a strong, clear, enduring framework with a net zero emissions goal to align industry, finance and government
- Transition to the large-scale, cost-competitive, renewable energy system of the future
- Accelerate development and demonstration of the emerging technologies needed
- Drive deployment of low-carbon solutions, reduce barriers and support investment towards the transition
- Develop integrated net zero emissions industrial regions, supply chains and energy network solutions.

Australian Industry ETI Chair Simon McKeon AO, Chancellor of Monash University, former CSIRO Chairman and former

Australian of the Year, said commitment from industry to the long-term transition is a positive step towards developing the capabilities needed, avoiding the risk of stranded assets and higher long-term energy costs, and for ensuring a future in which Australian energy-intensive industries are competitive in a decarbonised world.

"With strong ambition, coordinated action and government support, industry emissions could be reduced by up to 92 per cent by 2050, based on 2020 levels," he said.

"This, with high quality and verifiable offsets for the remaining 8 per cent, would transition industry to net zero emissions in support of the ambition to limit warming to 1.5°C.

"This is a moment of opportunity to align

and focus efforts to create a globally competitive, equitable, net zero emissions industrial economy in Australia. Action is needed now to lay the foundations, capitalise on the opportunities, and avoid more costly emissions reduction measures in the future."

The report outlines how over 1.3 million jobs could be created between 2025 and 2050 in the ambitious 1.5°C scenario, with investment by government, industry and investors supporting up to 64,000 construction jobs per year from 2025 to 2050, plus an additional 129,000 roles in operations and maintenance between 2025 and 2050.

The report was prepared for the Australian Industry ETI by Climateworks and CSIRO, in consultation with industry and research partners.



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'Villains' have role to play

By CQUniversity Australia Professor of Hydrogen and Alternative Energy, Murray Shearer

Oil and gas companies are seen as climate villains. Truth is, we'll need their expertise to make green hydrogen a reality.

Think about oil and gas companies and climate change and chances are you'll think dark thoughts.

It's true Exxon Mobil had remarkably detailed knowledge of global warming in the 1970s.

Some seeded doubt by funding climate denier organisations and scientists and invented greenwashing. The current energy crisis has handed them windfall profits.

In fact, BP hit profits of A\$40 billion last year, while scaling back its green ambitions.

But these companies are not just going to disappear. Even after we stop burning oil in engines, we will need oil and gas as raw materials for plastics, glues, solvents, industrial chemicals and fertilisers. Eventually, we'll find greener alternatives. But that will take decades.

Are they the enemy? They've certainly done a lot to slow down the shift to clean energy.

But this will – and is – changing. Inside some of these companies, people know change will have to come.

The companies which embrace their role as broader energy and chemical companies will make the transition first.

We'll also need their expertise and ability to handle uncertainty, risk and large projects to make green hydrogen and green chemicals a reality.

OIL AND GAS OVER COAL?

If you've been following climate change discussion, you'll have noticed plans to phase out coal crop up a lot more often than plans to phase out oil and gas.

That's because – for now – we're much more reliant on these hydrocarbons. Firmed solar and wind can now take up the slack as ageing coal plants retire. But we're still a way off being able to avoid burning oil or gas for transport or in industrial processes.

That means these companies will be with us for decades yet. But over time, they will think of themselves less as fossil fuel extractors and more as energy and chemical conglomerates, where oil and gas is a smaller part of what they do.

You're right to be sceptical. But there are legitimate signs of change.

Shell just bought into a green hydrogen megaproject in Oman, for instance, where it will be the lead operator. Late last year, BP bought a controlling stake in Australia's largest renewable project, the Asian Renewable Energy Hub. If built in its entirety, this project would generate the equivalent of a third of Australia's 2020 electricity production.

OIL AND GAS MAJORS ARE WELL PLACED TO MAKE GREEN HYDROGEN AND GREEN CHEMICALS

Hydrogen is tricky. The lightest element can diffuse through many materials and escape. That makes storage and transport difficult.

But oil and gas companies are experienced



Picture: AERIAL MEDIA GLADSTONE

in handling hydrogen. That's because it's widely used in oil refineries to scrub sulphur out of oil and to help crack heavy oil into lighter grades. In fact, it's so useful that most of the world's hydrogen is used in oil production. At present, hydrogen is usually made by breaking up natural gas, which means it contributes to global heating.

But if we can figure out how to cheaply extract hydrogen from seawater, this green hydrogen could sub in for fossil gas. For this to happen, we'll need oil and gas majors on board. The realities of green hydrogen would be daunting for most companies. Pipelines to transport it. Ways of storing it. Tankers to ship it across the sea. Heavy engineering projects with a high capital expenditure.

Oil and gas companies have had to pioneer a great deal of new technology to keep the fuel coming, given how much oil and gas has already been tapped, shipped and burned.

Take fracking, which was invented out of necessity. Or the ability to drill for oil underneath kilometres of seawater in places like the North Sea.

To have a chance of getting to net zero by 2050, we'll need scale. If green hydrogen or ammonia is to actually be useful, we need lots of it.

HOW COULD OIL AND GAS COMPANIES REINVENT THEMSELVES?

Not all oil companies are the same. Some will keep drilling for oil as long as there is demand. And state-owned oil companies such as Saudi Arabia's Aramco are the main source of their country's wealth. It's hard to see them changing.

But some will move to grasp the future. Many people inside these companies can see very clearly where the world is going – and the risk of going extinct if they do not reinvent themselves. The first movers are likely to benefit the most, if they use their advantages to help the transition.

At present, oil and gas companies make money by drilling, processing and selling oil and gas to burn in engines. But as the clean energy transition gathers pace, there will be new opportunities.

If one major oil company figures out how to do green hydrogen at scale, they could take advantage of their integrated corporate network, from production to transport to service stations or other consumer points. Others might move into synthetic aviation fuel, or specialise in swapping LNG tankers for hydrogen vessels.

Even after you displace dirty fuels from

transport and power sectors, there are many areas left over, such as chemical manufacturing.

Without fertilisers, we would have much lower yields from our farms. It's estimated the equivalent of half the world's population relies on food made possible by synthetic fertilisers. These come from natural (fossil) gas.

Similarly, paints, varnishes, glues and plastics currently need hydrocarbons as a feedstock. To replace these means changing the whole chain.

OIL AND GAS DON'T EXIST IN A VACUUM

Just last week, the European Union hit the symbolic target of EU 100 (A\$157) per tonne of carbon.

As carbon prices rise, it makes fossil fuel projects less attractive – and will make the economics of many marginal projects in renewables, green chemicals and hydrogen work.

You and I and most people alive have benefited from the intense energy stored in fossil fuels. They've underpinned the huge advances in our economies and technologies for over a century. But now the costs are plain.

So let's use all the tools we have available – even those wielded by climate villains like oil and gas companies.

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Road toll at 13-year high

RACQ and the RACQ CapRescue helicopter service are urging Queenslanders to be more mindful on the road after last year's road toll reached a 13-year high.

In the first instance, RACQ CEO David Carter said we need to act fast and get back to basics.

Air Crew Officer Patrick Norton also agrees, saying there are common factors that are seen on-site at motor vehicle accidents.

"Often, we see people that are fatigued and tired and trying to get to their destination quickly and not taking appropriate rest breaks," Mr Norton said.

Mr Carter said we must also rethink education, designing peer-to-peer, local-to-local campaigns to improve our road safety culture.

"We need education campaigns where truck

drivers, motorcyclists and motorists champion road safety to improve our road safety culture."

Most recently, RACQ CapRescue were tasked to a single motor vehicle accident involving a tank truck on the Dawson Highway.

It was reported that the driver of the truck suffered injuries after his vehicle, which was allegedly carrying nitric acid, left the highway and rolled shortly after 11am.

This is the 40th motor vehicle accident the Rescue300 crew have been called to in the past 12 months.

RACQ has put forward a number of recommendations at the State Government's road safety roundtable.

"Our recommendations complement Queensland's current Road Safety Action Plan, now it's time to get on with it and save lives."

RACQ's Recommendations:
Within 12 months:

1. Regional peer-to-peer road safety education campaigns
2. Targeted increase in police presence on roads
3. Research into licencing, education and training for motorcycle riders
4. Increased funding for regional high school programs
5. More detailed and timely road crash data

Within five years:

1. Fix, finish and extend existing road infrastructure in high crash zones
2. Build resilient roads to minimise future flood and storm damage
3. Investigate ways to improve emergency response to regional crashes

Within 10 years:

1. Increase investment to projects that improve regional road safety
2. Prioritise high benefit-to-cost ratio projects
3. Introduce incentives to increase the uptake of newer and safer vehicles
4. Improve communication between vehicles, roads and emergency responders by developing a strategy to rollout 5G network across regional Queensland

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RACQ CapRescue

Caps for CapRescue

CQLX, rural suppliers and manufacturers have teamed up for a cause you must take your hat off to!

Anywhere you look today, you will see the unmistakable "trucker" style cap on heads of all ages!

Carly Gaukroger and Steph Frankham of CQLX said that they have become collectable items in the rural sector.

"Many businesses are getting involved and creating their own unique cap, wearing it and others proudly. We see them on here at CQLX and at other livestock sales, campdrafts, rodeos and around Australia," said Carly.

"We are essentially becoming a walking billboard, so it only makes sense to have your brand represented on one these unique trucker caps."

With so many people cap-tivated by this headwear, an idea hat-ched!

A call out has been made to supporters of RACQ CapRescue to donate trucker caps, which will then go on sale to raise much-needed funds for their lifesaving cause.

"This fundraising venture has been a goal of CQLX's for some time now and the RACQ CapRescue is the perfect beneficiary, it is also added exposure to the businesses donating their caps to have their brand represented on the cap wall," said Carly.

It has cap-tured the attention of many people across the 350,000km2 region serviced by CapRescue, with businesses jumping on board as collection points.

In the lead-up to the big event at CQLX during Brahma Week in early October 2023, CapRescue is asking the public for donations of new unused trucker caps. Collection points have been secured in Baralaba, Biloela, Emerald, Rockhampton and Theodore. Head in to one of the following businesses to make a donation: Acres Rural Baralaba, Acres Rural Rockhampton, Elders Emerald, Acres Rural Theodore, CQLX Gracemere, Heilbronns Rockhampton, Eagleshams Menswear Emerald, Nutrien Ag Solution Biloela, Nutrien Ag Solutions Rockhampton, GDL Rockhampton and Roundyard - All Things Country Biloela.

