



**JECO**  
The Jewish Ecological Coalition

## JECO eNews – May 2017

### Upcoming events – this Sunday!

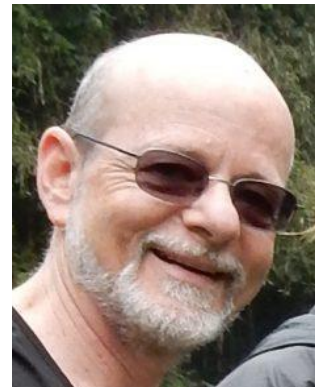
#### Solar & batteries – Are they for you?



Deciding to jump and monitoring performance.

**Putting solar cells on houses is increasingly popular. It's also quite complicated.**

- How big?
- What information do I need to gather to make an assessment?
- Do I have room on my roof?
- What technologies?
- Should I install batteries? How big?
- Which supplier?
- Are there regulatory issues?
- Does my choice of power company affect this?
- Is it economically viable?
- What if I'm renting?
- What if I can't afford the up-front cost?
- How do I know if it's working?
- How do I track its performance?



#### **So many questions!!!**

If it's in your too hard basket, there are resources to help you decide. It's not right for everyone but it's economically viable for many people.

Energy Storage – batteries & others – is an area that deserves special discussion. It's changing very quickly but the best answers are becoming more apparent.

**Andrew Gelbart** is an "elderly" engineer (his own description!) with a long career in evaluating and implementing new technologies. He finally made the leap to having solar installed after considerable evaluation and watching the technology develop and emerge. He will walk you through his decision-making process, share some of the resources he has found that help in making a decision and in

tracking performance. He believes it's not that hard once you know what to ask and where to look. A worked example is often the best way to learn.

If it's on your list then here is your chance.

**When?** Sunday 21st May at 7:30pm

**Where?** 37 Margaret St, Carnegie

**How much?** Gold coin donation requested

\*\*\* Andrew has requested that attendees bring a copy of a recent electricity bill with them. This will make the session more relevant and fun. \*\*\*

**Please let us know if you're planning to come so we know how many chairs we'll need on the night. Email [flitman@optusnet.com.au](mailto:flitman@optusnet.com.au)**

## Climate for Change video

Have you seen the excellent new video on our website? It comes from Climate for Change, and you'll find it on the [Resources page](#), or you can watch it here:

Climate for Change – 2016 Problem and Solutions Video v6

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<iframe width="560" height="315" src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/b9K6HbuSQek"
frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>
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It runs for about 22 minutes.

If the video has revved you up and you want to take some action to help, you might like to visit the [Climate for Change website](#) and perhaps host a Climate for Change gathering in your home to get your friends revved up too.

## Save the date!

On **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm**, JECO, in conjunction with the Leo Baeck Centre and the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC) presents the film

### Guarding the Galilee

Hosted by award-winning actor Michael Caton, the film features farmers, dive instructors and boat operators all concerned about the impacts that Adani's Carmichael coal mine would have on water resources, climate and the reef.

Watch the trailer at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1c5h-A4liNU>

Gautam Adani is an Indian billionaire who wants to build the biggest coal mine in Australia's history in Central Queensland's Galilee Basin. The Federal Government wants to give him \$1 billion of public money to build a rail line from the mine to Abbot Point where the coal would be shipped to India\*. If this mine goes ahead it would open up a coal resource that, if burned, would double Australia's carbon emissions. Guarding The Galilee explores the impacts of this project and actions we can take to stop it.

The screening will be followed by a discussion about what we can do to Save the Galilee.

**Where:** Leo Baeck Centre, 31-37 Harp Rd, East Kew.

Entry \$10 towards the campaign to stop the Carmichael supermine going ahead.

\*India is phasing out thermal coal imports entirely by 2020, making it even more puzzling why this environmentally destructive project is being supported or even going ahead at all!

# What is Adani and what is their Carmichael Coal Project about?

Source: [How to host a Guarding the Galilee Screening – a Stop Adani guide](#)

Indian company Adani is attempting to build one of the world's largest coal mines in the Galilee Basin in Central Queensland.

If built, Adani's Carmichael coal mine-rail-port project will add 4.6 billion tonnes of greenhouse pollution, right at a time when emissions urgently need to be cut.

It will also open up one of the largest untapped coal reserves on Earth.

Adani's coal project involves the 60 million tonne per annum Carmichael coal mine, a new coal-fired power station at Moray Downs, a 388 km long rail line, and the construction of a new coal export terminal at the Abbot Point coal port on the doorstep of the Great Barrier Reef.

Adani's mega mine will be over 30 km long, with six open cut pits and five underground mines.

The mine would impact 28,000 hectares of land (an area more than five times that of Sydney Harbour) and destroy local groundwater systems, sucking up to 9.5 billion litres of groundwater and up to 12 billion litres from surface water sources every year.

The Adani project has been dogged by controversy from the outset, with local Aboriginal people expressing concern over the impacts on their lands, waters and cultural heritage. For more information see <http://www.wanganjagalingou.com.au>.

Farmers have raised concerns over groundwater impacts, and local communities have expressed concerns about the Adani project's environmental impacts on the local area and Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

Added to that is the huge concern from people across Australia and around the world over the climate change impacts resulting from the burning of coal from the Carmichael mine.

Worldwide, over two million people have actively expressed opposition to the Adani mega mine and have already taken action on the campaign. Already, 13 global banks have ruled out providing funding.

It's clear a powerful movement is building momentum. Be a part of the biggest campaign in Australia's history to stop Adani's Carmichael coal project and stop coal for good.

## 10 Reasons Adani's mine should be stopped

1. **Adani does not have the consent of the Wangan and Jagalingou people**, whose ancestral lands, waters and culture would be destroyed by the mine. Since 2012, Wangan and Jagalingou have rejected a land deal with Adani four times and have four court challenges underway.

2. **The Great Barrier Reef cannot survive the Adani coal project.** Right now, the Reef is facing unprecedented large-scale bleaching two years in a row due to rising ocean temperatures. It cannot survive more coal-fuelled global warming. Additionally, Adani's project could result in over 500 extra coal ships travelling through the World Heritage Area each year, risking ship groundings, coal and oil spills; and it requires further dredging within the World Heritage Area causing water contamination, destruction of dugong habitat, impacts on Green and Flatback turtle nests and more.

3. **Adani companies are under investigation for tax evasion, corruption, fraud, and money laundering.** Nine of the 20 Adani



subsidiaries registered in Australia are ultimately owned by an entity registered in the infamous Cayman Islands tax haven. Adani Group companies have an appalling environmental track record with a documented history of destroying the environments and livelihoods of traditional communities in India, and failure to comply with regulations. We cannot trust Adani to look after our local communities, precious water, the Great Barrier Reef or taxpayers' money.

**4. Public funds will be wasted on Adani coal.** Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk have promised no public money for Adani but are currently planning to lend \$1 billion of public money to build a rail line for the project. Due to Adani's murky corporate structure, the Australian Government cannot even confirm which Adani company would receive the \$1 billion conditional loan from the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility.

**5. The mine has unacceptable climate impacts:** Adani plans to mine 2.3 billion tonnes of coal over the mine's 60 years of operation. Burning this coal would result in the emission of 4.6 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. To limit the impacts of climate change we need to reduce our burning of fossil fuels to zero as quickly as possible. The world can simply not afford to burn the coal from this mine.

**6. Adani will rob essential water resources:** Adani's mine will extract billions of litres of groundwater each year, causing irreversible damage to groundwater systems and resulting in a permanent drop in the water table around the mine site. Currently 87% of Queensland is drought declared, the most widespread drought declaration ever recorded in the state.



**7. Tens of thousands of Queensland jobs are at risk.** 69,000 reef tourism jobs rely on a healthy Great Barrier Reef, and farming communities are already doing it tough. Adani has misled the public about the amount of royalties and jobs the mine would generate. Its Australian CEO boasts to the business press "everything will be autonomous from mine to port".

**8. Coal is killing people:** Pollution from burning coal is the single biggest contributor to dangerous global warming, threatening our way of life. In Australia, 'black lung' disease has recently re-emerged among coal miners, with at least 19 workers in Qld identified with the disease. The coal from the Carmichael mine will be burnt in India where 115,000 people die from coal pollution every year.

**9. Australia is missing out on the global renewables boom:** We must immediately begin the transition from polluting coal, oil and gas to 100% renewable energy to stop greenhouse gas emissions reaching even more dangerous levels. Solar is now cheaper and faster to build than coal.

**10. Australians don't want this project.** New polling shows half the country (52.2%) already oppose the mine outright, only one quarter support it and nearly another quarter (23%) don't even know about the project. The majority (60%) polled already understand that the mining and burning of coal fuels global warming impacts such as heatwaves, bushfires, floods, droughts and more severe and frequent storms.



MORE INFORMATION: [WWW.STOPADANI.COM](http://WWW.STOPADANI.COM)

## What you can do to help stop Adani

1. Join, start or grow a Stop Adani group in your community

Adani say they are making a major financial decision in June 2017 on whether to build their coal mega mine, and that they intend to start construction in August 2017.

Around the country, local groups are speaking up in their area. You can too—join a #StopAdani group or start your own today. Check out the map of groups at [stopadani.com](http://stopadani.com) and join or start a group.

It's easy to start a group—all you need is a dedicated bunch of people willing to meet, discuss and progress the issue in your local area. You can meet at a community space, in someone's home or local a cafe or bar.

## 2. Don't give \$1B of public money to Adani! Organise an action at your MP's office

Adani's dangerous mine has many of the approvals at a state and federal level they need to dig this mine. To make matters worse, the Turnbull government plans on wasting \$1 billion taxpayer dollars on the project—and the Queensland government are egging them on.

But most Australians don't want to see public money going to Adani's destructive project - and we urgently need to let our state and Federal politicians know that.

Organise a meeting with your local MP or a protest at your MP's office to share your concern and call on them to stick to their election promise of no public funding for Adani. Take a photo and share with a short statement on social media and with your local paper.

## In other news

### What to plant in May - from our gardening expert Eva Light

Here's a list of suggested veggies for planting this month of May in Melbourne's temperate climate. In order to achieve abundant healthy produce, feed your pet plants admirably with cow or chook manure, worm castings, worm tea and/or liquid seaweed. Water them too. If you've organised a water tank, you'll have rainwater galore and they prefer the taste of tank water to chlorinated tap water. Have fun and enjoy good food!

Seedlings	Seeds
Beetroot	Broad Beans
Broccoli	Carrot
Brussel Sprouts	Garlic (bulbs)
Bok Choi/Pak Choi	Parsnip
Cabbage	Peas
Cauliflower	Radish
Celery	Swede
Coriander	Turnip
Fennel	
Herbs (all except basil)	
Kale	
Lettuce	
Rocket	
Silverbeet	
Spinach	
Spring onion	
Strawberry	

### France declares all new rooftops must have plants or solar panels

<http://csglobe.com/france-declares-all-new-rooftops-must-be-topped-with-plants-or-solar-panels/>

## Some possible solutions to the world's massive plastic problem

*Genetically modified bacteria that eat plastic*

<http://nocamels.com/2017/01/genetically-modified-bacteria-eat-plastic/>

*Plastic roads*

<https://www.plasticroad.eu/en/> (see also [this article in the Daily Mail from July 2015](#))

## Federal Labor says no to Adani

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-04-30/federal-labor-backtracks-on-support-of-adani-coal-mine/8483932>

“India will be phasing out thermal coal imports entirely by 2020”

## A dose of positivity is what we all need!

Review by Eva Light: “The film TOMORROW is fantastic. Full of projects that are under way. Looks at politics, economics, agriculture, local communities, reusing, composting, democracy. Frankly I was moved to tears, it was so hopeful but very real and practical. A must see.”

<http://news.berkeley.edu/2015/12/02/dire-climate-forecast-inspires-upbeat-film-about-solutions-for-a-warmer-tomorrow/>

JECO is hoping to host a viewing of this film later this year.