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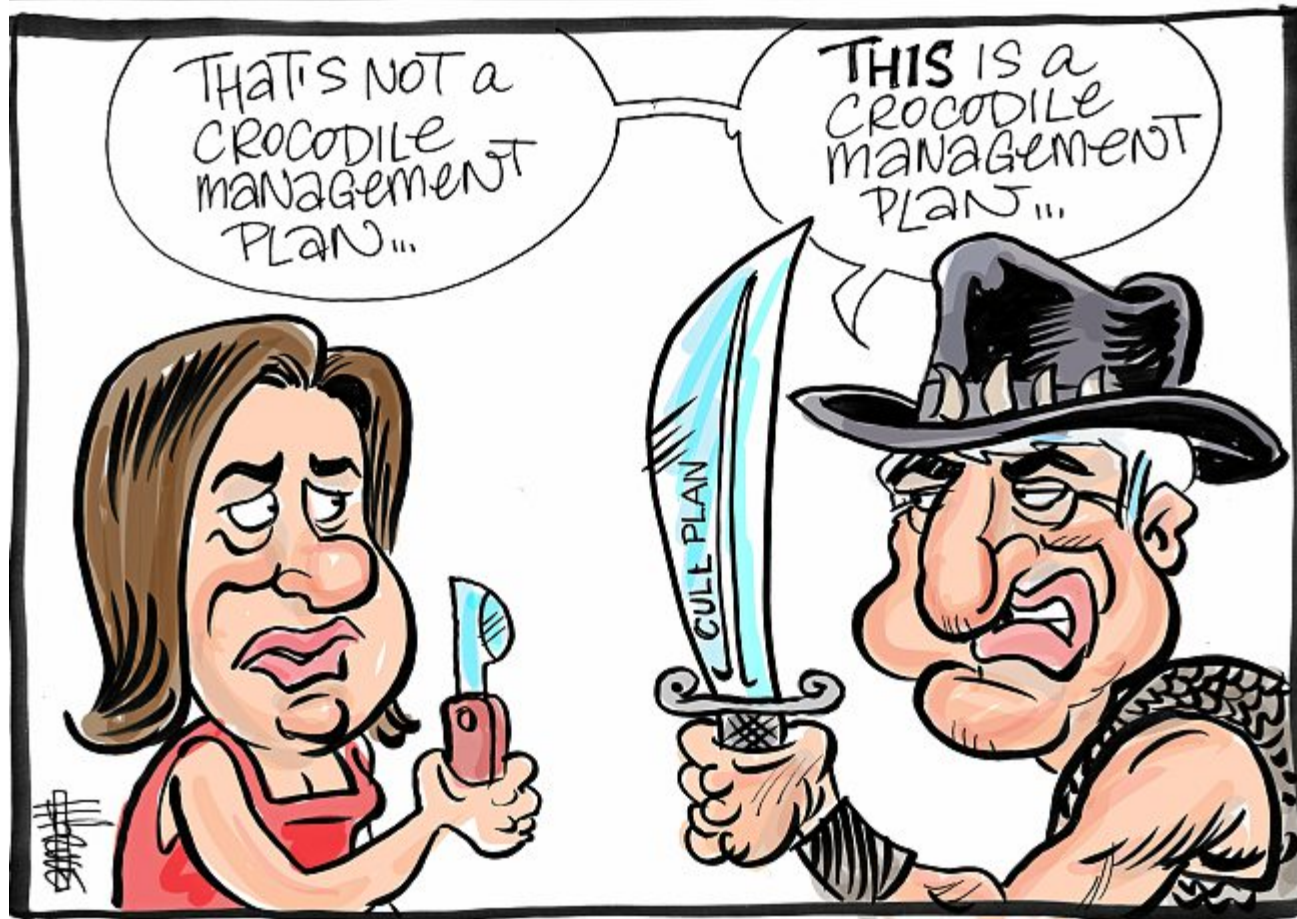


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➤ HARRY'S VIEW



It's time to give back to the north

MALCOLM Turnbull's decision to try to expand the capacity of the Snowy River Hydro Scheme first announced by Labor Prime Minister Ben Chifley in 1949 is commendable in an effort to add renewable energy to the East Coast grid.

I see Jay Wetherall's \$360 million gas fired electricity plant with enhanced battery storage and the Turnbull move, as both good steps in the right direction for Australia's future energy needs.

That said, and as a north Queenslander, the obvious enhancement to that grid is a base load power station which has been promised

for north Queensland.

Logically we have the mighty Burdekin Falls Dam west of Townsville completed by the Hawke

“The Burdekin Falls Dam can easily be transformed into a base-load hydro electricity generator

Labor government in 1987, (30 years ago).

The Burdekin Falls Dam can easily be transformed

into a base-load hydro electricity generator by following the original plans for it to be not only a huge hydro electricity generator for north Queensland, but also to include gravity fed water supply to Townsville's Ross River dam.

This would provide both energy and water security for north Queensland.

If Mr Turnbull can spend \$2 billion in Sydney accommodating southern eastern states' future energy needs, why is it that north Queensland is continuously ignored by both State and Federal governments of both colours for many decades when our infrastructure is so sadly lacking?

Do we not pay the same

rate of tax as our southern counterparts? Does not north Queensland mineral wealth provide billions of export dollars for our current trade balance, along with sugar and bananas and many other goods?

It's time north Queensland received something in return.

The Burdekin Falls hydro electric scheme and gravity fed pipeline to Townsville's Ross River Dam is the game changer we in the north have sought for so long.

As a bonus it would improve both the Queensland and Federal government's commitment at the Paris Climate Change conference.

— Shaun Newman
Townsville

LIKE THESE IN MONDAY'S BULLY

seeds of misery

of failure, of letting down my clients and my family.

What if I shared my insight that in my experience at least, there is a clear link between over-identifying with feelings and depression – a well-trodden path where alignment with feelings morphs into another mental state?

An alternative reality, that too many times leads to suicide.

Such an observation vindicates my belief that depression is in fact contagious.

Too much empathy exhausts our internal

chemical reserves, creating a new reality, as real to the sufferer as it is unreal to an outsider – and that is probably one reason for so-called copycat suicides, especially amongst teenagers who have not yet learned the difference between our feelings and our self.

So, do you become a “hard arse”?

A lot of them seem to live to an obscene old age, seemingly worry free.

You do have to be tough.

You have to actively identify and manage your own feelings and your interaction with the feelings

of others.

You have to assess your feelings and their motivation.

You have to be alert to the seductive warmth of misery. Whereas empathy should consist of acknowledging the trials of others.

Misplaced it takes the form of a real-life soap opera.

Is your claim to empathy genuine or is it tapping into your own anxieties, providing an escape from the duties expected of you as a functioning member of your family, of your group of friends, of society in general?

➤ FACEBOOK

Rockhampton's Elsa Stone turned 102 years of age yesterday

“Nice work Stoney – Happy Birthday, girl!”
— Des Houghton

➤ TEXTS TO THE EDITOR

SMS the Editor on 0428 634 025 with the word **ROCK** and a space in front of your message.

■ **LYN LASKUS:** Worried about dog in supermarket gave me a big laugh. Try a mum picking through fruit and veg with baby in arms and baby throws up onto fruit. If you have got that much time to watch other people doing their shopping why don't you stand there and hand out hand wipes as you cannot be sure who has washed their hands. Precious this is why you are taught to wash fruit and veges before eating them.

■ **CD, ROCKY:** The Liberal Party rolled the dice with Hanson's O N Party backfired badly. The same will happen to the LNP in Qld. They've already got weight in the saddlebags with Nicholls as leader. The architect of asset sales and 1400 job cuts.

■ **RG, BERSERKER:** Yipee – I hear longans will be at Rocky market Sunday morning

■ **ANON:** “No coal is the end of civilisation”?? I am not a tree hugging greeny but I think if our Mayor truly believes this, then it is time to hang up those red shoes Dorothy. Civilisation will have to evolve if it wishes to continue. The answer and solution may not be clear for our future. But what we need is visionaries and risk takers, not stay reheated left overs.

■ **SC, ROCKY:** I understand it's SMS to the Editor but still struggling to understand half the texts sent in. Please could some editorial assistance help here?

SC you're reading my mind. Maybe people could make a bit more of an effort...SMS Ed

■ **ANON:** Pity our Premier has no fight in her as the SA one has.

■ **DC, ROCKY:** What a joke Margaret Strelow saying the Adani mine would create 10,000 jobs. Does she think the public are stupid to believe that? The only thing it will do is destroy the reef and all the tourism jobs that go with it.

■ **DRIVER, ROCKYVIEW:** The main roads are resurfacing the Moore's Cr Rd north of the Albert St bridge. Road surface

seems to me in good condition. Money would be better spent between Ramsay Ck and Greenlake Rd where there are signs saying ROUGH SURFACE. There are at least 14 patches that need digging up and redone. Patches that have been done before. These spots are deplorable breaking up. How long do we wait? Signs have been there forever!!

■ **RAP, ROCKY:** Queensland Health should hang their heads in shame over the Alan Kuhn travel debacle. This unfortunate victim has received this subsidy previously so why the change? Being very sorry for his situation does not cut it. Now this is where our local member needs to get involved.

■ **PP, FRENCHVILLE:** I read with interest our Mayor's comments with regard to the proposed Adani mine and the letter of protest by “a group of prominent Australians” and I would say to her “Margaret, to continue mining coal and burning it will definitely 'bring civilisation to an end as we know it'”. In future editions, Mr Editor, I would be interested to read an article by our Mayor on “clean coal” and also an article by yourself giving details of your quoted “more than 200,000 people” who are “sweating on” the commencement of the Adani mine. Just asking!

■ **COWBOY, ROCKY:** How about running a survey Mr Editor, to see whether the people think Adani and their mine would be good for the community. Premier and Mayors falling over themselves to court Adani. Banks won't touch them, but what would the banks know about business and risk. Incredulous. Hope Chapells hit them for six.

■ **IHBR, ROCKY:** The sooner the Footy Show gets rid of Beau Ryan the better.

■ **VERITAS, NORTH ROCKY:** Mr Ed. It is fairly obvious that you have a “hands off” SMS selection policy with any SMS that raises issues in relation to the loony left.

➤ PHOTO OF THE DAY



TO BE SURE, TO BE SURE: Mary Sumach celebrates St Patrick's Day at the Mercantile Hotel at The Rocks in Sydney yesterday.

PHOTO: DAN HIMBRECHTS/AAP