

YOUR SAY

The best reader comments from print and online

If it's good enough for Japan...



MY SAY
FRAZER PEARCE
EDITOR

IF Japan can build 45 clean-coal-fired power stations, and remain within the emissions targets set by the Paris agreement, why can't Australia see the logic in building a few of these new state of the art plants?

The Australian reports that research, produced by the Minerals Council of Australia, suggests new high-efficiency, low-emissions coal-fired power stations are the best way to meet the three objectives of energy policy: to deliver reliable power at affordable prices while meeting Australia's international obligations.

The analysis finds emissions intensity of the new HELE plants would be between 23 per cent and 32 per cent lower than their predecessors.

Central Queensland is the region set to benefit enormously from this proposal. The Gladstone power station is one of the nation's three oldest black-coal-fired power stations and set to be retired in the 2020s, so let's get cracking now and build a new \$2b plant beside the current station at Stanwell.

The Stanwell station is also one of four existing coal-fired power stations that the MCA study nominates for major upgrading to reduce their emissions intensity.

So, the nation needs more power (with a growing Northern Queensland focus), CQ has abundant coal and rail services, and this region badly needs hundreds of new long-term jobs - that's four compelling reasons for local politicians to back this plan.

I believe the LNP is on board so if State and Federal Labor ignore the solid logic behind this HELE plant evidence, it will cost them any chance of winning CQ seats in the next elections.

CONTACT US

EDITOR: Frazer Pearce
DEPUTY EDITOR: Adam Wratten
DESIGN EDITOR: Matthew Pearce
SUB EDITOR: Christine McKee
SPORTS EDITOR: Pam McKay
CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER: Chris Ison
RURAL WEEKLY: Zhanae Conway-Dodd

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

42nd return is pie-in-the-sky thinking

THERE is something wonderfully wistful and nostalgic about your headline and editorial of 13 July - "Rocky on the radar for bigger base" and "42 is the answer".

Maybe there will be a defence spending boom. Maybe Rockhampton and Central Queensland will get noticed when the cash is splashed. And maybe the 42nd Battalion will be recreated in Rocky in all its WW2 glory.

Dare one suggest that this is pie-in-the-sky thinking?

Dare one suggest that a defence spending boom is a debt building boom? That it is about stealing wealth from future generations to fund current payment of tribute to the US empire?

Dare one suggest that a defence spending boom will be more ephemeral than the cash splash of the coal

mining boom? Think about it awhile.

At this time, the LNP is spending big on defence with \$200 billion earmarked for new and costly hardware for the fighting of US wars. But the LNP is electorally on the nose and it will not be in government much longer. Any new government will come in slashing.

Likewise the tide is turning on endless war. The present scandal about the wanton murder of the Australian SAS in Afghanistan is a sign of this.

Engagement in endless US wars has not only stolen our commonwealth, it has hijacked our defence forces and corrupted them, made them vicious assassins and self serving mercenaries.

And decent ordinary folk of Rocky know this and are appalled. The War on Terror palls. Its tide has run full and



WAR GAMES: Soldiers from 2nd Royal Australian Regiment conduct an amphibious beach landing from HMAS Canberra during Exercise Talisman Saber 2017. PHOTO: CPL DAVID SAID

now it ebbs. War is not the answer. Nor is defence

spending the answer to the economic decline of Rocky.

— Graeme Dunstan, Peacebus.com



MAYOR'S DESK
MARGARET STRELOW

IT WAS a deeply satisfying and encouraging moment. I was listening to the conversation and enthusiasm as two couples talked about their love for Rockhampton, about the heritage and culture and the lifestyle.

I quietly cheered.

I love the fact that I hear these conversations more and more often. A little bit like our immense pride at being Queenslanders, there is no doubt that the vast

“My companions on Thursday evening didn't know that Mount Morgan had a cave with dinosaur footprints in the roof. Did you?”

— Rockhampton Mayor Margaret Strelow

majority of locals are deeply proud of their city.

But the second strain of the conversation was equally true and that is that we don't promote the positives enough.

I'm not just talking about where there might be new businesses or new job opportunities, this newspaper has been an excellent positive influence in supporting our business community in the last few

We frequently hear of visitors and newcomers who didn't know about our Botanic Gardens or about Mount Archer or about the extraordinary buildings on Quay St.

This is a cue for improvement. My companions on Thursday evening didn't know that Mount Morgan had a cave with dinosaur footprints in the roof. Did you?

We will always be proud to have the beautiful beaches of Yeppoon and Emu Park so close and they are a strong promotion tool, but we all need to lift our game in promoting the greater depth of our region.

And in the same way that the fans 'cheering on' the maroons gives courage and

helps the players to dig deep for that final push – together we must cheer on our community as we strive to kick goals.

(PS no one can get in to the cave to see the dinosaur footprints at Mount Morgan mine at the moment because of legitimate safety concerns. Time to sort this out!)

Electricity and gas prices

THE Australia Institute in a report (website www.tai.org.au/) has explained the reason for higher electricity prices in Australia and it is the wholesale market price of LPG gas.

The report (National

FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS ON DAYS LIKE THESE WITH HAIDEEE JENKINS

Accountants being taken



THE FRENCH LESSON
DAVID FRENCH

IF YOU read, or even glance at the financial press, the name Alex Malley will be familiar territory. CEO of the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants (CPA) organisation, Malley went from being a recalcitrant schoolboy to best-selling author, media personality and head of one of the two

main (with apologies to the NIA) accounting bodies in Australia. Charged with taking CPA international, and then (responding to regulatory pressures) providing a seemingly sensible (but failed) bridge for accountants to become financial advisors, Alex was, two weeks ago, sacked.

The sacking was one thing, but the lead-up was more interesting. Survey after survey shows that people take for granted that accountants are respected pillars of our community. What the unhappy events revealed is that the second most (and that is a close

second) respected advocate for the Accounting Profession (the CPA Association), is in fact, arguably, with snouts in the trough and a pre-disposal to turning blind eye, just as likely to ignore external rules and expectations and rules of its own, and make a mockery of many of the regulatory changes it has been instrumental in arguing for.

While much commentary on this matter is titillating, the thing that gets me is the propensity for practitioners in whatever endeavour to aggressively align themselves with

organisations that purport to bestow an aura of professionalism. The seeming lemming-like acceptance of these alignments suggests a society-wide failure to grasp what professionalism is.

Probably eight years ago, an executive of the Financial Planning Association (FPA) berated me in front of others for not wearing a tie. Now this was during my breakfast, on my work trip, and I just happened to run into him on the downstairs café of a Sydney Hotel. I know and like this guy, but in front of three others he noted that it was not

professional to come to breakfast without a tie. Lovers of ties, forgive me, but I am standing there thinking of the grief that was the GFC, and the devastation caused by Storm Financial (at the time, an FPA member), and the best this well dressed, educated and charming guy can come up with is to tell me to wear a tie.

In the example of the CPA and in my short anecdote above, I am smelling bulls**t. And so should you reader. There are many, many people - financial planners, lawyers, accountants, doctors,