

## Jobs at risk: blackouts spook big companies

Continued from Page 1  
 "a lack of reliability" was a problem in seeking to attract industry.  
 Jay Weatherill hit back late yesterday, accusing Mr Turnbull of being dishonest and promising a showdown at COAG. "The Prime Minister must stand up to the right wing of his party and reject its pro-growth agenda," he said.  
 Federal Industry Minister Greg Hunt yesterday blamed the Victorian Labor government for abandoning energy security with a strong push to renewables, putting industry in that state also at risk.  
 "The Australian Workers Union warned yesterday that the Alcoa plant, which employs 680 workers and indirectly supports 2000 jobs in Victoria's oldest regional town, may never fully recover as the company took one of the smelter's two pollutes out of action, reducing its manufacturing capacity by 60 per cent.  
 The Portland smelter, about 350km southwest of Melbourne, lost power for 5½ hours on Thursday because of an issue in the Victorian transmission network, which affected the flow through the Heywood interconnector to South Australia. To balance the South Australian network — powered by gas and a 45 per cent renewables mix plus imported coal-fired generation — 220 megawatts of power was shed from it, blacking out 200,000 homes and shutting down industry.  
 BHP Billiton's Olympic Dam mine in South Australia lost power for more than four hours, with other companies including Oz Minerals were affected for six hours. During a September state-wide blackout in South Australia, Olympic Dam was without full power from September 28 to October 13. Olympic Dam asset president Jacqui McGill said yesterday the two blackouts in little more than two months had cost it \$100 million and "we can't keep absorbing these kinds of costs".  
 BHP yesterday stepped up its

public campaign over crippling energy policies it warned were putting jobs and investment at risk. Ms McGill reiterated that BHP building its own power station and disconnecting from the grid was not in South Australia's best interests, contrary to an assertion by state Treasurer and Energy Minister Tom Koutsantonis that it should do so to avoid further power outages. "We're at a limit of what we can actually do," she said. "I can't secure supply for Olympic Dam right now and that is a deep concern to me and of course the board of BHP Billiton as we look to what further investment in Olympic Dam."  
 BHP employs 3000 people in

**'I can't secure supply for Olympic Dam right now and that is a deep concern'**

JACQUI MCGILL  
 BHP BILLITON OLYMPIC DAM  
 South Australia, and a further 43,000 nationally. The company last financial year paid \$2.5 billion to the federal and state governments, including \$1.3bn in royalties, \$62m to South Australia, \$52m to Western Australia, \$33m to Queensland, and \$62m to NSW. The company uses an average of 2880Mw of electricity over a 24-hour period in South Australia, and has a fixed price supply agreement with the operators of the Alcoa Point gas-fired power station, Enge.  
 AWU state secretary Peter Lamps said investors looking at South Australia were worried about power supply and price. "If these two matters can't be addressed companies like BHP, your Arrimus and Nystaras, and others would be reviewing where they do business," he said.  
 ADDITIONAL REPORTING:  
 VERTY EDWARDS,  
 RICK WALLACE

# Moore slates Turnbull at mayors' climate summit

GRAHAM LLOYD  
 MEXICO CITY

Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore has used an international climate summit of city leaders to slam the Turnbull government as a "boobed" of "climate deniers".  
 In a forum with her Canadian counterpart, Vancouver Mayor Greg Robertson, Ms Moore said there had been no progress in the transition from Tony Abbott to Malcolm Turnbull.  
 "My challenge is much greater (than Copenhagen)," Ms Moore told the C40 mayors conference. "We are still the biggest exporter of coal in the world and we still have a federal government which has no climate deniers."

Asked if it was fair criticism given the warm reception for Australia at the Marrakesh climate conference, Ms Moore said she would put "the Australian newspaper" in that category as well.  
 Ms Moore, who leads a seven-member delegation in Mexico City, held a press conference with Mr Robertson on "how cities can advance climate agenda despite climate-sceptic national governments".  
 "I just say to climate deniers — denying is not going to stop it (climate change) or stop those with responsibility from taking action," Ms Moore said.  
 Mr Robertson said things had improved in Canada with the election of Justin Trudeau.  
 But Ms Moore said Australia had been without a supportive federal government for "quite some years".  
 Despite this, Sydney had made significant advances in reducing greenhouse gas emissions with the support of business, she said.  
 Sydney and Melbourne were last night announced joint winners of the "building energy

### THE CLIMATE CHANGE MAYORS



efficiency" category at the C40 conference.  
 The award recognised the City Switch Green Office program which supports office-based businesses to improve energy and waste efficiency.  
 Ms Moore said CitySwitch was the only program in Australia that brought together state and local government with commercial tenants to improve environmental performance, saving participants

\$34 million over five years.  
 As in Marrakesh last month, C40 participants were waiting to see whether the US changed lack under Donald Trump.  
 "After the US election there has been some speculation whether the US will fulfil its obligations," former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg told the conference. "Mr Trump has not taken office yet and we don't know what choices he will make."

However, Mr Bloomberg agreed that cities and the private sector would ensure the US met the pledges made in Paris. Mayors did not look at climate change as a philosophical issue but one of health and sustainability, he said.  
 The C40 group represents 90 cities and every region of the world. One in every 12 people on Earth lives in a C40 city and they represent 25 per cent of global GDP.

"Cities helped to make the Paris agreement possible," Mr Bloomberg also a philanthropist, told the conference. "Cities have to lead the way."  
 Mexico City has more than 21 million people and covers an area of 1485sq km.  
 The C40 conference was told local government had only four years to act to meet the Paris agreement target of limiting warming to 1.5C.

## Baird comes up short on super sale

KYLAR LOUSSIKIAN

The Baird government has sold its superannuation administrator, Pillar, to global consulting firm Mercer for \$3.5 billion — less than half the \$10bn tipped in the lead-up to the sale.  
 The government is believed to have accepted the lower bid amid concerns that Link, the country's largest provider of services in the sector and the other main contender to buy Pillar, would have faced regulatory hurdles.

The Australian Competition & Consumer Commission praised the decision to sell to Pillar to Mercer over Link.  
 The deal announced by Treasurer Gladys Berejiklian, comes days before the sale process for the state's third electricity asset, Endeavour Energy, is due to begin.  
 The 99-year lease of a 50.4 per cent stake in Endeavour, thought to be valued at about \$4 billion, although bidders have already been warned no single overseas investor will be able to own more than half that stake.

Ms Berejiklian said the proceeds from the Endeavour sale would go towards a targeted \$20bn infrastructure spend.  
 "These transactions are allowing us to invest billions of dollars into new roads, hospitals, schools and cultural facilities, as well as vital water infrastructure in our regions," she said.  
 Ms Berejiklian oversaw the problematic sales process for Ausgrid, in which a 50.4 per cent stake was acquired for \$16.2bn by AustralianSuper and IPM. Investors after earlier frontrunners China State Grid Corporation and Cheung Kong Infrastructure were knocked back by the Foreign Investment Review Board and Scott Morrison.  
 ACCC chairman Rod Sims said he was "pleased" Mercer had secured Pillar over Link. "There is no doubt at all that the right thing to do is to have pro-competitive outcomes. The bad thing to do is to maximise proceeds and have bad outcomes," he said. "Even if there was less money, and I don't know if there was, then it's still a good thing because they have a pro-competitive outcome."  
 "Governments shouldn't be selling assets to maximise proceeds, you want a more competitive outcome to maximise the economic benefit to the people."  
 Labor Treasury spokesman Ryan Park said Ms Berejiklian "appears to have chosen the path of least resistance and in doing so has short-changed the taxpayer to the tune of tens of millions of dollars."  
 "The privatisation of Pillar does not enhance efficiency or promote competition — I see nothing to be proud of here," he said.

## Morrison's plea as royalties swell coffers

Continued from Page 1

factory treasurers in Canberra yesterday. Mr Morrison said they were all working together to make budget savings and preserve the triple-A credit rating, which was necessary for consumer confidence and to keep government borrowing costs down.  
 If current iron ore spot prices are sustained, the extra revenue could reduce Western Australia's budget deficit by \$2bn in one year, while the soaring coal price could add \$2bn to Queensland's bottom line surplus, currently \$867m. Even in NSW, a continuation of current coal prices could add about \$700m to the budget result, offsetting a decline in stamp duty revenues.  
 The effects of commodity prices on the resource-rich states' budgets add to the uplift the federal budget will get from higher commodity prices. Federal budget papers estimate that for every \$US10 rise in the iron ore price, the federal budget benefits by \$140m.  
 While the federal government forecast an iron ore price of \$US55 a tonne, Western Australia was more optimistic, predicting \$US470 a tonne. Yesterday it was \$US278. Queensland Treasury assumed coking coal would be \$US88 a tonne, but it has reached more than \$US300. Even with recent reductions in the thermal coal price, it is still \$US123 a tonne compared with Queensland's assumption of \$US160.  
 Queensland Treasurer Curtis Pitt said: "It's too early to say if the

recent price rise will be sustained and what impact, if any, there will be on royalty revenues. Any adjustments will be contained in the mid-year fiscal and economic review at the end of the year."  
 West Australian Treasurer Mike Nahan welcomed the rise in iron ore prices as good news for industry and those it employed. "You can see the high price translating into the share price for the iron ore majors, and that is more good news for West Australians."  
 "It's important to remember that the iron ore price is highly volatile. This year alone, we've seen a low of about \$US39 a tonne to recent prices of between \$US70 a tonne and \$US80 a tonne — prices we haven't seen in almost two years."  
 Dr Nahan warned that "this

high price has to be sustained to translate into a meaningful impact on the bottom line."  
 Western Australia estimates that for every extra \$100m in iron ore royalties, it will lose \$89m through the grants commission adjustment to GST relativities between states.  
 Although many analysts doubt the sustainability of the recent surge in prices, some of the increase will be built into the forward estimates of state budgets.  
 Western Australia, Queensland and NSW all increased their royalties under the cover of the Rudd and Gillard governments' shorted mineral resources rent tax. When the MRRT was abolished the states, with the exception of NSW, maintained their royalties.

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**ACT Government**

## CANBERRA LIGHT RAIL STAGE 2 TENDER BRIEFING

**The ACT Government invites tenders for the provision of a range of advisory services for Canberra Light Rail Stage 2. Tender requirements can be found at [www.tenders.act.gov.au](http://www.tenders.act.gov.au)**

A tender briefing will be held on Thursday 8th December, 2016 from 10:30am to 12:30pm at Ballroom 2, QT Canberra, 1 London Circuit, ACT.

Registrations must be made at [TCCS\\_LightRailStage2@act.gov.au](http://TCCS_LightRailStage2@act.gov.au) by 5:00pm, Tuesday 6th of December 2016.

Transport Canberra Light Rail | [www.transport.act.gov.au](http://www.transport.act.gov.au) | Enquiries 13 17 10

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The Appointment will be for a fixed term of five years. Subject to satisfactory performance and other criteria, a further term may be negotiable.

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 Mr Tom Dalton, CEO, Forensicare telephone +61 3 9495 9143, email [Tom.Dalton@forensicare.vic.gov.au](mailto:Tom.Dalton@forensicare.vic.gov.au)

Forensicare promotes the following values: responsiveness, integrity, impartiality, accountability, respect and leadership; and promotes behaviours that are consistent with these values at all times. Forensicare is an equal opportunity employer and offers a smoke free environment.

**Lyngcoln CONSULTING**

## PRINCIPAL

Brisbane Boys' College is a leading GPS independent day and boarding school for boys with a rich and impressive history. The College has a reputation for academic excellence and for helping to harness the potential of boys in all aspects of their lives.

Following the announcement of the retirement of Mr Graeme McDonald after 15 years of distinguished service to the College, the Council of the Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association (PMSA) now seeks to appoint the next Principal.

With a sound foundation, including strong enrolments and excellent facilities, this role offers an exceptional opportunity for an outstanding educator and leader to further enhance the full range of the College's programs from the Early Years to Year 12.

The successful applicant will be an outstanding educational leader with demonstrated experience and proven ability to work collaboratively to:

- Lead and sustain a high performing, innovative and inclusive culture
- Design and deliver key initiatives in support of the College's vision and strategy
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- Lead and develop staff within a culture of high expectation and professional excellence
- Build quality relationships with students that inspire personal growth and success within a Christian ethos
- Sustain a strong school community which promotes positive collaborative relationships with key stakeholders
- Implement systems and structures that ensure the effective ongoing management and development of the College

This exceptional opportunity will appeal to a contemporary and inspiring leader who has worked in a senior leadership position within a high performing school culture. An ability to demonstrate insights into boarding environments will be highly regarded.

For further information and a confidential discussion, please contact Neville Lyngcoln, Principal Consultant of Lyngcoln Consulting on 0427 530582 or email [nv@lyngcolnconsulting.com.au](mailto:nv@lyngcolnconsulting.com.au).

Applications close of 5pm (EST) on Friday 23 December 2016.

**Brisbane Boys' College is a school of the Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association**

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**Experience required:**

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- Extensive experience in the operations of a legislative chamber and in advising Members and the Executive on legislative and Parliamentary practice
- Excellent people management, leadership and motivational skills to lead a team of professional staff
- Extensive knowledge and understanding of contemporary public sector strategic management, administration and financial practices
- Highly developed analytical and problem solving skills to interpret complex legislation and information, and to resolve new and unprecedented issues
- Excellent interpersonal and oral communication skills and the ability to represent the Parliament in an ambassadorial capacity
- High level judgement exercised in a unique working environment
- Tertiary qualifications in a relevant discipline such as law, political science, history or management or equivalent demonstrated experience

Interested applicants are encouraged to contact  
 Sean O'Connor, Chief of Staff to the Speaker on (02) 9320 2201 or email [Sean.OConnor@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Sean.OConnor@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

To apply or for more information:  
 Visit [workforce.nsw.gov.au](http://workforce.nsw.gov.au) and search for 000047WLS

**Closing date: 11.59pm Wednesday, 11 January 2017**

# Start-up guru's science warning

EXCLUSIVE

STEFANIE BALOGH NATIONAL EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

The co-founder of start-up poster-child Atlassian, Mike Cannon-Brookes has sounded an alarm about Australia's complacency on innovation and called for greater investment in maths and science education.

Mr Cannon-Brookes, one of the nation's leading tech entrepreneurs, said "everybody has to understand that investing in education is important, we have to be dispassionate and factual about where we currently sit in education and how we move forward and what changes we need to make to move forward."

The co-chief executive of Atlassian — an enterprise software company valued at \$US5.5 billion (\$7.2bn), which is more than Qantas — said the hardest thing for politicians to do was stop playing politics and start explaining why innovation was critical.

Other countries had thrown resources at programs to improve skills in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) because they understood the value for their economies over the next 25 years.

"The challenge is not that we've gone a long way backwards it's that everyone else has gone forward a lot faster," he said.

"We certainly have not been investing in STEM as much as we should have been in the last five to 10 years. You see other countries that are making much heavier and more aggressive investments in these areas."

Britain, he said, had begun investing heavily in STEM in schools about four years ago.

"Obviously none of those kids have graduated yet but they started, call it, five years before Australia if we started today. Now that means somewhere at the end of that pipe, there are kids coming out at 18 who have done STEM for 13 years. Even if we started today, that cohort of kids leaving are going to be five years ahead of Australia."

His comments come on the back of this week's release of the Trends in Mathematics and Science Study, which showed Australian Year 4 and Year 8 students lagging behind their global peers in maths and science.

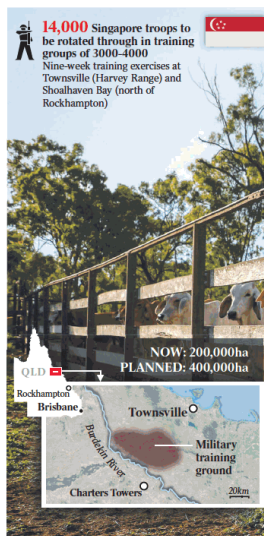
Mr Cannon-Brookes said other countries had realised "many of the skills in every business going forward are going to involve some flavour of technology".

Australian Industry Group head Ines Wilson said the Australian economy would increasingly need people with STEM skills. "These TIMSS results indicate we are moving further away and not closer to this. There needs to be an urgent focus in the schooling system to turn this around," he said. "Reform of the way our schools are funded is a critical step to addressing this."

Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute director Geoff Prince said without "decisive action" Australian industry would be forced to seek STEM skills internationally to maintain our competitive position.

INQUIRER P18

# It's war: farmers to fight forced sale for foreign troop exercises



Grazier Bob Hicks of Mirambeena Station and his fellow farmers from Charters Towers, west of Townsville, oppose government moves to acquire their land to train Singaporean troops

SUE NEALIS RURAL REPORTER

The compulsory acquisition of vast tracts of rich cattle country in north Queensland to allow the Singapore Army to train its soldiers has been labelled an unconscionable "land grab" by cattlemen set to be evicted from their family farms.

About 23 farming families near Charters Towers, west of Townsville, are at risk of being thrown off their cattle properties by the Australian Department of Defence so it can expand its existing field training area to meet a \$2.5 billion

defence deal signed between the Australian and Singapore governments in May.

More rural properties are also being forcibly acquired north of Rockhampton, next to the existing Shoalwater Bay training base, to accommodate the 14,000 Singapore troops scheduled to train in Australia for 18 weeks a year under the 25-year joint defence training contract.

Local cattlemen Bob Hicks was one farmer who received an unwanted letter last week from the department confirming his family's much-loved 20,000ha cattle fattening property Mirambeena is in its acquisition sights.

He is angry and bitter that the family home, cattle business and the farm his late drove-father thought of as the "best country in Australia" is being forcibly taken from him so soldiers from another nation can practice driving their tanks and firing their guns.

"This place is part of our hearts and souls the home just doesn't stop at the house — it's out there in every part of the country," says Mr Hicks, 50, of his long green river valley in the Burdekin River's headwaters.

"And it makes it really tough — rubs salt into it all — that this isn't even our own soldiers who will be training here, this is all

because the Singapore government offered big wads of cash and our government wanted the money, yet we are the victims of this overseas sellout."

The farm families are also furious at their first warning of the dire threat to their properties — before receiving their individual meet-to-talk letters last week — was via a Defence Department map published in the local paper vaguely showing their farms covering about 200,000ha to be forcibly acquired.

"Most believe there is less productive farming country not that far distant to Townsville that would be better suited — and less

wasted — for troop training purposes.

Almost all have joined a legal action to fight the impending compulsory acquisition orders.

Several of the affected Charters Towers farming families are being represented by Townsville lawyer Ian Conrad, who says the proposal makes no economic or practical sense.

"Not only will the region lose revenue and (circulating) income from the sale of the 15,000 cattle worth \$20 million turned off every year by these farms, but the opportunity and potential to develop fertile areas next to the Burdekin River for high value irriga-

tion land will have been lost if the farms aren't there," Mr Conrad said.

"Despite misperceptions, this is not low-value land that is being taken; there are large tracts of unproductive and less expensive land to the north and southeast that could be acquired with far less impact on the economy of the region."

Townsville-based Liberal National Party senator Ian Macdonald, a staunch defender of the contentious Singapore army training scheme, believes it is in the interests of Australia's "great-er good" that the forced land sales proceed.

# Go-alone state quits 'national' NDIS

RICK MORTON SOCIAL AFFAIRS WRITER

The federal model for the \$22-billion National Disability Insurance Scheme is over, with the West Australian government confirming it will go its own way with a state-run version of the program.

West Australian Disability Services Minister Donna Faragher said the state's decision to take control of administration would still allow for a "fully portable national system", a claim disputed by disability advocates.

The transition to the hybrid model, revealed in *The Australian* in March, will begin next July.

"The West Australian government is strongly committed to the NDIS and is clear that eligibility criteria, the provision of reasonable and necessary supports, and, most importantly, choice and control for people with disability in WA will be the same as in all other states, facilitating a fully portable national system," Ms Faragher said.

We have a strong existing disability sector in Western Australia and we want to build on this with the delivery of a state-run NDIS which is nationally consistent."

Federal Social Services Minister Christian Porter, formerly the state's treasurer, said the federal government "strongly preferred" the state sign up to the scheme proper, but locked in 11 conditions on which the deal turns.

Western Australia has agreed to fund 100 per cent of the administration and operation costs and 59.4 per cent of the support package costs — the largest component — while community, information and coordination costs will be shared.

Crucially, the federal government will bear no more than 25 per cent of any cost overruns. In deals signed under the Gillard government, it was 100 per cent.

Women with Disability WA's Kaye Lamb said the new scheme would "benefit providers and government, not people with disability".

WA-based advocate Sam Connor said "We will be significantly worse off in terms of funding packages, choices and control, appeals processes and certainty for people with disabilities."

# PM goes back to basics as Di Natale swims against Yuletide with turtle card

EXCLUSIVE

PHILLIP HUDSON

Malcolm Turnbull has embraced tradition with his official Christmas card this year by reviving the image of the Prime Minister's official residence, The Lodge.

It is the first time since 2009, when Kevin Rudd was in power, that the 1927 Georgian revival-style mansion has appeared in the prime ministerial Christmas card.

A photo of Mr Turnbull and his wife Lucy, standing in front of the newly renovated house is featured inside the traditional green card with the gold coat of arms.

The Turnbulls moved into The Lodge in January after spending \$130,000 of their own money to complete renovations that were



Cards say so much for Richard Di Natale, Christmas is a time — for turtles: Bill and the Shorten clan; Lucy and Malcolm at The Lodge; and Barnaby and the Joyce family

mostly arranged under the Gillard and Abbott governments and cost taxpayers \$11.6 million — four times the original budget.

Mr Rudd and before him John



Howard regularly featured photos of themselves and family and pets at The Lodge in their Christmas cards.

During her three years as



prime minister, Julia Gillard never sent a picture of herself and partner Tim Matheson, instead using a charity card from Oxfam.

Tony Abbott restored the

green card with gold coat of arms but he never lived at The Lodge.

His official photo sometimes included his wife, Margie, but one year promoted the week he spent living in an indigenous community and another highlighted a Christmas charity.

In this year's card, Mr Turnbull has kept the same message that he used in the electronic card he sent by email last year. It reads: "Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year." It is signed Malcolm and Lucy Turnbull.

Bill Shorten's Christmas card this year features a family photo with wife Chloe and children George, Rupert and Clementine, along with British bulldogs Theodore and Matilda.

Unlike last year, when he did not mention the word Christmas,

this year the Opposition Leader has added the words "Merry Christmas" to last year's greeting: "Wishing you peace and happiness this season and a prosperous New Year." It is signed Bill and Chloe Shorten.

Many MPs have spent the final days of parliament signing Christmas cards, although one minister yesterday told *The Weekend Australian* he had to pay attention during question time and still has 900 cards to sign in the coming days.

In his first Christmas card as leader of the Nationals, Barnaby Joyce displays a photo with his wife, Natalie, and daughters Odette, Bridgette, Julia and Caroline.

There's no picture of Greens leader Richard Di Natale in his card or specific mention of Christ-

mas but he has three designs of whales, turtles and an underwater reef with the message: "Wishing you and your loved ones joy and happiness this festive season — and time to enjoy some of our most precious places."

Mr Turnbull yesterday helped load a truck with presents for Mission Australia and the Salvation Army from the giving tree in his Parliament House office. "Christmas is a time when we draw close to family and friends, it's a season of love," he said. "But it should be also a season of unconditional love and love for those who are not as well off as we are, who don't have the family that we have, who don't have the presents around the tree that our children and grandchildren have."

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MARGIN CALL P25

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