

SE News - Letters
HD **Thirsting for water realism**
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LP
opinion YOUR SAY
Thirsting for water realism

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IF Mike Moraza ("Committed to best practice" Herald 29/8) thinks that securing gas for NSW may be an issue in the future, he could not begin to imagine how difficult supplying safe drinking water will become should **coal** seam gas "fracking" be allowed in our water catchments.

The hasty approval of four new **coal** seam gas exploration wells in Gloucester puts at risk the Manning River that supplies nearly 80,000 people in 27 towns from Crowdy Head in the north, to Hawks Nest in the south and Barrington in the west.

But Moraza is also wrong by stating that NSW needs the Gloucester **coal** seam gas project.

There is no gas shortage, in my view, and there are alternatives to gas for **energy** supply and usage in the home, but there is no alternative to water.

It's time for bipartisan support from our state government on banning fracking in our water catchments.

Prue Bodsworth,

Tighes Hill

Renewables still too costly

LOOKING at the complete picture on renewable **energy** paints a somewhat less favourable conclusion about its so-called benefit as presented by Kane Thornton ("Abolishing RET would be costly" Letters 28/8).

Wind energy, for example, is very intermittent, requiring additional 100 per cent backup (thermal) capacity and requires the market to **purchase** substitute power when **wind energy** shuts down due to excessive or low **wind** speeds.

This happens regularly. Loss of load incidents occur on a grand scale and require intervention from backup facilities at a premium — up to the current market cap of \$10,000/MW.

Who pays for the added cost of this unnecessary spot market volatility? We do.

If renewable **energy** is so good, why can't it thrive without subsidies like Power **Purchase** Agreements (which are very generous to **wind**-farms), Renewable **Energy** Certificates, which are a federal tax on all Australians that has added over \$8 **billion** to power bills and possibly a further \$54 **billion** by 2031, and a Renewable **Energy** Target?

Peter Devey,

Merewether

Way forward now needed

THE sexual abuse scandal among different religious denominations is being exposed almost daily.

Cardinal George Pell's comparison of the Catholic Church with a trucking **company** has been condemned.

Bishop Greg Thompson, as head of Hunter region Anglicans is very clear ("We are not a trucking **company**" Herald 28/8).

Bishop Bill Ray, from Queensland, said Cardinal Pell's analogy was "absolutely appalling".

The notion that being celibate is a cause of paedophilia has been put to rest because we know that clergy who have partners also commit the crime of sexual abuse.

Now what are we going to do about it?

Are the parishioners of all sects content that their money will be spent defending these predators and compensating their victims?

We have been duped and hoodwinked and now we must see that justice is done.

All ideas welcome.

Pat Garnett,

Newcastle East

Rehabilitation part of consent

BEFORE a **mining** project receives development consent, a detailed plan for rehabilitation is required to be approved ("I don't dig the restoration" Letters 28/8).

That plan will have been developed with government agencies, and in consultation with the community.

Most frequently, land that has been disturbed is returned to a similar condition and use to its pre-**mining** state.

However, there may be good reasons to change land use during rehabilitation. For instance, in the Hunter Valley, rehabilitation can provide opportunities to turn poorer classes of agricultural land into native vegetation communities, contributing to regional conservation corridors.

There are very few examples of **mining** on Class 1 or 2 agricultural land in NSW.

Coal & Allied was permitted to mine Class 1 and 2 land in the Hunter Valley on the strict conditions relating to the restoration of the agricultural productivity of that land.

You can see more details on that rehabilitation project on our website (nswmining.com.au).

Stephen Galilee, CEO,

NSW Minerals Council

Allegiances may yet cost

MALCOLM Fraser is correct when he observed recently that Australia's strong defence ties with the United States, and the US's commitment to Japan's defence in the event of hostilities, potentially with **China**, would draw Australia into a conflict.

China and Japan are at odds over islands claimed as territory by both nations.

Japan's constitution is to change to allow its "self defence forces to become able to conduct aggression" in Asia, or anywhere else if they so desire, and to increase spending on an already formidable so-called self defence force.

Australia would be in bed with the US and drawn into conflict with our two largest trading partners.

In recent history, Australia blindly followed the US into Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, all of which were unwinnable conflicts.

We have no animosity to **China** or **China** to us, but in a conflict with Japan where would Australia put its allegiance?

Peter Routley,

Balmoral

High risk of election farce

THE NSW government needs to have a serious look at the way the byelections are going to be run in Newcastle over the coming months.

There is a real possibility that four elections will take place over the coming months with the state byelection due in October, mayoral election in November with a possible January/February ward election and then a fresh state election in March.

The cost of running potentially four elections in as many months will add quite a cost burden to both state and local government coffers.

Premier Mike Baird and the Local Government Minister need to review this farce for a more fair and cost-effective solution.

Nathan Clarke,

Warabrook

Cambodia is not asylum answer

THE Australian government is trying to negotiate a deal with Cambodia to resettle asylum seekers in exchange for money.

Cambodia is one of the poorest countries in the world, riddled with poverty, unemployment, all sorts of social problems, including crime and corruption.

It is my view that, if successful, Australia will have achieved one of the lowest and cowardly acts that a government could commit upon other human beings.

The government will place itself as worse than the people smugglers that it so often denounces.

Problem solving at any cost should not be the Australian way and, in my opinion, if this deal goes ahead they should be tarred and feathered as they are thrown out of parliament.

Allan Earl,

Thornton

Standing up for the truckies

CARDINAL George Pell's comparison of the Catholic Church with a trucking **company** while giving evidence to the royal commission into child abuse last week is a deep slur and quite insulting to all truckies and truck companies in this country.

Trucking companies would not turn a "blind eye" to their drivers picking up children and sexually abusing them - a practice that has been going on in the Catholic Church for the past 60 years at least, according to the royal commission.

They say silence gives consent, as this church has been doing.

Shame, shame, cardinal for comparing hard-working truckies to paedophile priests.

Truck companies must answer and refute this outrageous claim.

Richard Ryan, Summerland Point

LETTER OF THE WEEK

This week's special Herald pen goes to John Holmes, of Arcadia Vale, for his letter about creating a tax on oxygen. The pen is in the mail.

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