



'Iron Dan': Andrews' next career move aligns with Forrest's green dream

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Highlight: The former Victorian premier still has an eye for a big project: joining a billionaire to sell "green" iron to China.

Body

We all knew the cat would soon be out of the bag on the next chapter for former premier **Daniel Andrews**. After all, the bloke couldn't spend the rest of his life [playing golf](#), [partying with Lindsay Fox](#) and [triggering Steve Price](#).

So we can now reveal that Andrews has teamed up with West Australian mining billionaire **Andrew "Twiggy" Forrest** and his iron ore giant **Fortescue** to help fulfil [Twiggy's dream of selling 100 million tonnes of "green" iron to China](#).

It's not clear exactly how this thing came to pass, but sources close to the action tell us that Andrews, who is taking on the **Fortescue** work through his consultancy, Forty Eight and Partners, gave a presentation at the Boao Forum for Asia in China's Hainan Province in March.

Forrest, a major sponsor of the event, was also present, and the two men appear to have clicked.

The green iron plan aims to deliver vast quantities of the metal to market after stripping carbon emissions from the extraction, processing and supply chain operations by using - and this could be the tricky bit - 8 million tonnes of renewable hydrogen each year.

So, Forrest is thinking big. But then Andrews never saw a large project he didn't like, if we overlook the [East West Link](#) and the [Commonwealth Games](#). So this thing makes sense on that level.

It's also been a winning approach for Forrest in the past. The **Fortescue** chairman - who, like **Whitney Houston**, believes that children are our future - hired another former long-serving Labor premier, South Australia's **Jay Weatherill**, in 2019 to lead the Thrive by Five early childhood education campaign that the miner established with his then-wife, **Nicola Forrest**.

Neither Forrest nor Andrews were available on Sunday to chat, leaving CBD to ponder alone the many questions raised by this news. The first would be, who gets to call himself chairman?

Andrews was never quite able to shake that "chairman Dan" moniker used by unkind souls over both his hard line on public health [during the pandemic](#) and enthusiasm for [closer trade links with China](#).

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There's this too: with the former premier and the mining boss both well-known for having a certain, well, let's call it a single-minded management style, what happens if differences emerge on strategy or tactics?

Oh, and you'd think that Andrews' new gig would mean spending a lot of time away from his beloved Mulgrave, in China and, of course, at **Fortescue**'s HQ way out west.

It'd be a shame if someone closed the borders.

TAYLOR MADE

Looks like **Taylor Auerbach**, the former producer from [Seven's Spotlight program](#) who [stole the show at Bruce Lehrmann's recent high-profile defamation case](#), is not yet ready to move on from the matter of Lehrmann and **Brittany Higgins**.

[Twitter link](#)

Auerbach announced on the weekend that he's been "writing a book!"

Well, "just having a crack, to see if I can do it. It might never be read by anybody but me. And I'm only an each-way bet."

Now, Tay-Tay II reckons it'd be "crass", at this stage, to reveal if the tome will be fiction or non-fiction, and we'll defer in matters of crassness to the expertise of anybody who's worked a few shifts at Spotlight.

You're not going to believe this, but Auerbach's post on X says the book is about a group of people working in media and politics and features an accusation of rape against a controversial figure. So maybe don't hold your breath for a powerful work of the imagination.

The initial signs are promising though, with Auerbach running his first chapter past an artificial intelligence program - you can do that these days - which gave the former print journalist's literary efforts as warm a review as you could hope for. From a machine.

But litigation-obsessed CBD worries that Auerbach might be entering legally fraught territory, what with [all the defamation cases](#) launched after Higgins first made her allegation that Lehrmann raped her in Parliament House in 2019. [The Federal Court last month sustained that allegation](#) on the balance of probabilities.

Maybe Auerbach enjoyed his days in court so much that he fancies another go.

[Link to Image](#)

Simon Schluter

GAS FRIGHT

Since we've come over all empathetic, we'll spare a thought now for Victorian Energy Minister **Lily D'Ambrosio**, who had to watch last week as her so-called Labor comrades in **Anthony Albanese's** federal government put a match to her efforts to [take gas out of Victoria's energy supply mix](#).

As if that wasn't bad enough, D'Ambrosio then had to listen to frontbench colleague **Ben Carroll** tell the airwaves that he was an enthusiastic gas user at home and had no plans to switch.

"I have gas at home," Carroll, the deputy premier no less, told ABC Melbourne Drive presenter **Ali Moore**.

"We're keeping it [for] a range of reasons, and I think that's symbolic of a lot of Victorians, a lot of Victorians like cooking with gas."

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Moore observed that D'Ambrosio might have something to say about all that.

We wondered too, but the minister's office wasn't keen to comment when we called.

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Graphic

Victorian Energy Minister Lily D'Ambrosio.

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