

## The Saltbush Clu

# How to Create a Country with no Heart Stack and Pack the Coa

by Viv Forbes

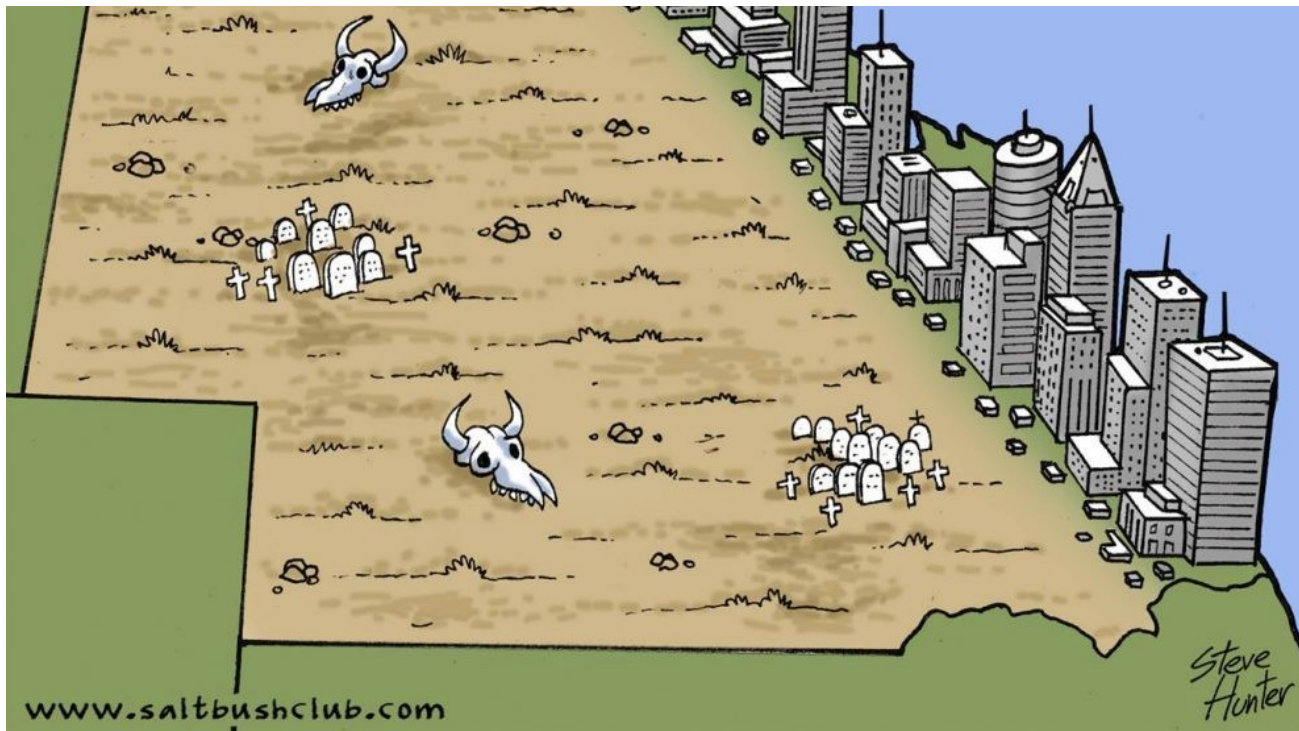
What has happened to Australia's once-bipartisan policies favouring decentralisation is every proposal to develop an outback mine, dam, irrigation scheme or a real power now labelled "controversial" by the ABC and opposed by the ALP/G

This coastal-city focus and the hostility to new outback industry (except for wind/solar) has surely reached its zenith with the recent state budget for Queensland

The population of coastal and metropolitan Queensland is surging with baby-boom welfare recipients, grey nomads, tourists, overseas students, migrants and winter migrants. But the outback is dying with lagging industry and many aging farmers retiring to the coast. We are creating a country with no heart

## The Country with No Heart





This growing urban and seaside population needs power, water an

However two critical power-water-food infrastructure projects that have been drawing boards for decades did not even rate a mention in the state budget – an example of coal-fired power at Kogan Creek and a water supply dam at Nathan

The current policy of all major parties is cluttering the countryside with piddling small intermittent power producers like solar panels and wind turbines plus their extensive network of roads and transmission lines. This is inflating electricity prices, and future generations will see this bi-partisan energy policy as a disastrous blunder. It is a mistake to encourage or subsidise private electricity cartels and put politicians, in charge of power generation

The Kogan Creek power station with its adjacent coal mine was opened in 2001, connected to the National Grid and integrated with local gas-fired and solar supply. It was always planned to add another generating unit at Kogan Creek, but twelve long years have passed with no action

Kogan Creek is crucial to maintaining a stable power supply to eastern Australia. This was demonstrated recently when a fault temporarily shut down Kogan Creek. The Nation

was barely maintained for about 30 minutes by the battery in SA until other backup generators could be started. With the likely 7 month closure of one damaged generator at Loy Yang power station, East Australian electricity supplies are now even more precarious.

Moreover, with the complete failure of the \$105M Kogan solar booster and delays in starting other solar plants in this area which were to be connected to the grid, the duplication of the Kogan Creek is urgently needed. *(Here is a revealing quote from one of the backers of the failed Kogan solar project: “Solar works extremely well when the sun’s out.*

Coal produces reliable low-cost electricity from a concentrated area with much less environmental damage than gas, wind or solar. These low density energy sources require much more land to collect equivalent continuous energy from a wide area compared to gas pipelines, turbines and solar collectors plus their backup generators, connecting roads and transmission lines. Most CSG wells also need to pump salt water from each bore because otherwise no gas will flow. Even if costly processes are used to extract fresh water from this salt water, the brines are left behind and must be stored safely. This evil-genie of salt should be kept in its underground lair and disturbed as little as possible.

It is becoming clear that that CO2 does NOT drive global warming. Even if it did, careful life-of-project studies are done for all of Qld energy sources, coal and hydro. Coal is likely to have the lowest carbon footprint with the least environmental harm (and it doesn't slice, dice or fry birds and ba

The surface disruption from an open cut coal mine is 100% and it shocks the landscape. However, it recovers 100% of concentrated hydro-carbon energy from a small area compared to the far less than is permanently sterilised by public roads and schools (there is no intention of restoring them). Even if the open cut was abandoned at the end of coal mining, a natural, relentless natural healing would immediately start. However, instead of treating the void as an expensive liability to be refilled with overburden, it should be seen as an opportunity to be landscaped as a pleasant lake or used for burial of the growing mountains of urban

The need for reliable economical electricity is urgent. However, if Kogan Coal Power Station closes for comfort for Jacki Trad, her Environment Minister and the greens

## Brisbane, the next real power station option is Collin

The need to conserve more water is also urgent. Nathan Gorge has been known as dam site for 50 years, but still nothing is done. The site and catchment make it likely high-yielding, cost-efficient dam. It is vital to the continuing development of the southern Bowen Basins and its water could be used for irrigation, power generation into the Condamine/Darling River in drought

Kogan and Nathan are decentralising projects that could provide community insurance against blackouts, floods and drought

It is the outback that produces most of Australia's food, minerals, energy, water, exports and jobs. And it produces serious income for state governments addicted to ever-rising land royalties

Anti-development policies, land-use sterilisation, climate alarmism and green laws are destroying the future for our kids and grandkids. Current policies will stack-and-coast and major cities leaving a depopulated outback to uncontrolled floods and drought, lantana and woody-weeds, wild cats and dogs, wild fires, feral pigs and the occasional ranger or tourist bus

*Some reading:*

*How they wasted millions on solar energy at Kogan.*

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/fastmoving-clouds-how-cs-energys-kogan-boost-project-failed-20170516-gw5p2u>

*Seven month outage at Loy Yang:*

<https://www.smh.com.au/business/companies/agl-energy-flags-seven-month-outage-victoria-s-loy-yang-power-plant-20190607-p51v>

 Admir / June 21, 2019 / Government Policy, Solar Power

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## 2 thoughts on “How to Create a Country with no Heart and Pack the Coast”

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**Primustultorus**

June 22, 2019 at 9:18 am

The Greens don't like dammed water because it is no longer wilderness water that is converted into wonderful financial instruments that their sponsors can seize if countries cannot seize if countries default on their debt.

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**Macha**

July 3, 2019 at 7:56 am

Hi Viv, maybe some media exposure on the 9 billion people in India without water draw parallels for Aussie pollies to build more dams for water storage.

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