

QLD BUSINESS

A new front opens up in the greenie war against Adani

Two women chained themselves to the gates of an industrial site in Townsville in a sign that pressure is building on Adani contractors.

Anthony Marx, The Courier-Mail

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NEW FRONT OPENS

It looks like a new front is opening up in the greenie war against Adani and its billionaire industrialist boss Gautam Adani.

Two women chained themselves to the gates of pipeline supplier Iplex at their Townsville plant on Tuesday.

Along with another 25 sign-toting protesters, they demanded that Iplex scrap its tender to supply the

Indian mining giant with piping for its enormous Carmichael project.

Mounting pressure aimed at other contractors saw engineering mob Aurecon buckle last week.

Aurecon said it would cut ties with Adani over “sustainability” concerns--even though it’s still involved in other coal projects.



Chairman of the Adani Group Gautam Adani.

That provoked a furious response from Resources Minister Matt Canavan, who blasted Aurecon’s announcement as “weak as piss and a load of rubbish”.

Expect to hear more about this “bunch of bedwetters,” as Canavan described them, when he fronts the inaugural Resources Media Club lunch at the Brisbane Club next week.

Aurecon’s widely-ridiculed decision to cave in can only be seen as an incentive for more civil disobedience by environmental activists, who claim the Iplex piping will be used by Adani to divert precious water away from struggling farmers.

Indeed, protesters have confirmed as much. “Companies like Iplex should know that if they do business with Adani and actively compromise farmers that they will risk their reputation and become a focus of peaceful protest,” one organiser said.

A spin doctor for Kiwi-based building materials supplier Fletcher Building, the parent company of Iplex, declined to comment yesterday, citing “client confidentiality”.

But an Adani spinner was happy to weigh in on this big hot mess, which seems likely to spread to other companies with the temerity to want a piece of the pie.

“Legitimate law-abiding businesses should be able to conduct their day-to-day business free of harassment,” she said.

“After more than eight years of working on our project, we have repeatedly demonstrated that we will not be intimidated or deterred from delivering on our promises to Queenslanders and we continue to get on with the construction of the Carmichael project.”



855 residences on way as Defence sells 20ha riverside site

TIME TO CELEBRATE

Speaking of mining, Peter Forsyth and his gang at Austin Engineering had plenty of reason to high-five each other yesterday.

The Brisbane firm reported its first statutory net profit in five years, a modest \$1.5 million.

It also generated \$13.8 million of operating cash flow, the best result since 2013.

All this came together as Austin, which manufactures dump truck bodies and related goods for the resources sector right around the world, celebrates 50 years in operation.

Not everything was hunky dory, though.

Revenue fell 14 per cent to \$235 million after the company offloaded underperforming operations and bailed out of unprofitable contracts.

The outlook for the next year is also mixed because of weak global growth and the spiralling trade war playing out between the US and China which has led to delays in the placement of orders, the company said.

MEAT FREE

You know the meat substitute revolution is going mainstream when fast food outlets start sitting up and taking notice.

It emerged yesterday that a KFC outlet in the US state of Georgia will wheel out meat-free, plant-based “chicken” for a one-day trial this week.

They’re calling it “Beyond Fried Chicken” but some wags have wondered whether KFC should be rebadged as “Kentucky Fake Chicken”.



KFC burger with real chicken

Anyway, the vegetarian substitute is produced by an outfit called Beyond Meat, which has already struck deals with the likes of Subway.

This prompted City Beat to wonder if this bogus chicken will be appearing in Australia anytime soon. Sadly, no it seems.



Empowering her people for generations to come

“We’re excited to see product innovations taking place in KFC restaurants across the pond. At this stage we haven’t got plans for meat-free chicken products in Australia but never say never,” a KFC spin doctor told us.

[Protests force global firm to cut Adani ties](#)

[‘Weak as piss’: Minister unloads as company quits Adani](#)