

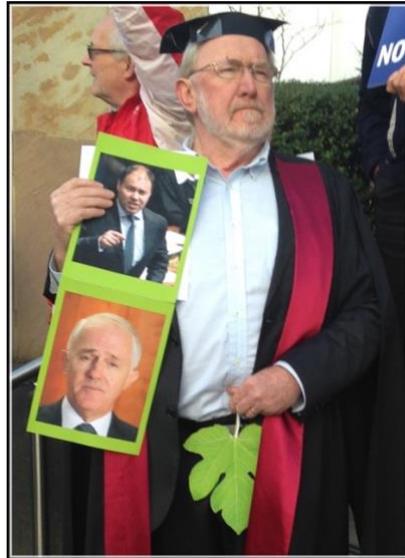
Bill Chandler

Early on, *Lighter Footprints* organised a Christmas function upstairs in Burke Road restaurant: A bloke harangued the audience talking from the back of the crowd, seemingly talking **for** the group not **to** the group! “*Who is this bloke?*”, I thought. It was Bill Chandler, of course.

Bill Chandler lived for an audience - no fear, just natural, inclusive, witty. He did so much for *Lighter Footprints*, *Stop Adani*, *Boroondara Votes Climate* with his memorable speeches and clever amusing antics. He could stand before a group of people, not knowing what he was going to say, with no fear, then entertain them. He was inclusive. John Gare suggested whistles at our last BBQ that Bill took right on board.



Camberwell 3/11/2017



5 June 2017

His letter writing style in the AFR was also inclusive, that of talking to fellow Board of Director members. He simply and naturally did not recognise “*them & us*”. In the process he was smooth and convincing.



Show sparks

Encore Bert! *Utopia's* Bert (from episode six, now on iview) shows spark at the ABC.
Malcolm Cameron, Camberwell

GREEN GUIDE

FINANCIAL REVIEW

11 September 2017

Bill still holds the record for a letter in each metropolitan Melbourne paper on the same day achieved on 31 January 2020 below. I have tried and tried to replicate this record but only succeed in grading my attempts 0/3, 1/3, not even a 2/3.



Nation needs action not more hot air from PM

The Prime Minister has discovered, a decade too late, that less-polluting gas is a useful transition from the gross pollution of burning coal ("Real market signals are a must on climate", January 30). Many committed quiet Australians will have watched Scott Morrison at

Morrison, the great evader
Many "quiet Australians" will have watched the Prime Minister speak at the National Press Club on Wednesday and given him credit for his consistency, smile, earnestness and focus on the future. His main theme (and over-long answers) was that what the government is doing is sufficient to guarantee us a good future.

In fact, he proposed short-term actions to address immediate problems such as bushfire recovery while ignoring past decisions and lack of action that have led to these problems.

Quiet Australians would also have observed his confidence in sidelining important questions with generalised answers, avoiding specifics, and not understanding why many voters question the credibility of the government, particularly the contrived statistics of the economic and environmental effects of global warming.

William Chandler,
Surrey Hills

The Age 31/1/2020



Scott Morrison at the National Press Club. PHOTO: SITHIKAY DITTHAVONG

the National Press Club and give credit for his consistency, friendly smile, earnestness, and focus on the future. But his main theme, and overlong




23/1/2017

answers to most questions, was that what the government is already doing is sufficient to guarantee us a good future.

In fact, what he was proposing were short-term actions to address immediate problems such as bushfire (or hail, flooding or drought) recovery while ignoring past decisions and lack of action that have ignored market signals.

What many of those quiet Australians will also have observed is his confidence in sidelining important questions with generalised answers, avoiding the specifics, and not understanding why a high proportion of voters question the credibility of this government, particularly the contrived statistics of the economic and environmental effects of global warming.

William Chandler
Surrey Hills, Vic

AFR 31/1/2020

Speech no comfort

IT is only natural that when things seem out of control and we are afraid, we seek comfort in a promise of certainty.

The article, "CSIRO to help make country fireproof" (HS, 30/1) offers the vain hope that we might be totally protected from the horrors of the current bushfires.

However, the main message from the Prime Minister in his National Press Club speech, that the government was doing all the right things in relation to global warming, gave no comfort at all.

It simply demonstrated his reliance on cherry-picking statistics, marketing language, and short-term ideas as an alternative to taking effective action on longer-term economic and environmental opportunities that global warming presents.

William Chandler, Surrey Hills
Herald Sun 31/01/2020



Protesters outside the Australian embassy in London last week. PHOTO: GETTY

Siemens reaches the wrong decision

Siemens' decision to confirm its contract for the Adani proposal is astounding because it is prepared to take a very high risk for a very small short-term profit ("Siemens under fire after sticking with Adani", January 13). Despite CEO Joe Kaeser's sympathy for Australians affected by the bushfires, his board chose to accept the discredited "jobs" and "poor people of India" arguments of coal ideologue Matt Canavan rather than the

scientifically underpinned economic and environmental reasons for opposing the Adani proposal. Would Siemens have made the same decision if this project were in Germany?

William Chandler
Surrey Hills, Vic.

John Kennedy, after his election, invited me to a function at his electorate office. I invited Bill. We stood beside a young Scotch College student, who decided he wanted to be PM when he grew up. The youngster lectured Bill on an item of the political day. I thought Bill would politely give him 15 seconds or so. Instead Bill gave him about half an hour of animated discussion of the politics of the day. Bill did not recognise class, status in the business hierarchy, or any discrimination. It was not a philosophical position he took, for or against. It was just not his way of life. Not in his DNA.

Once I volunteered to organise the Lighter Footprints Christmas BBQ with Bill. That time he was so preoccupied with a demonstration at Frydenberg's office that I was almost in total charge. Each year, I tried to pass this responsibility on but Mick Nolan would ring Bill, enthuse him again ... Bill would ring me ... "*We're doing the BBQ again, Malcolm*". And I couldn't responsibly leave him on his own. At least now, it is my decision again.

Standing as an independent for Kooyong in 2019, Bill saw a need to do something about the political situation. That was the election Oliver Yates stood prior to the successful Monique Ryan MP. Bill was an Independent by nature. He told me he could never join a political party.



20 May 2019

Bill was a mixture of arts, science, management and fun. When the local paper *Progress Leader* closed down there was another wrong for Bill to right. He got a team together to replace it with "*Eastsider News*" now in its 10th edition or so.

Their house in Surrey Hills suited Ros and Bill being a converted manse, inspiring or effectively consecrating him perhaps.

Bill was a shining example of making the best of time left after a cancer diagnosis. There needs to be advice in interacting with people with cancer. The opportunity of getting Bill to write on the topic was missed.

We knew Bill was on a downhill but towards the end he would telephone me after they dosed him up for his Chemo session. Then it was old times again for five minutes or so.

You live as long as people remember your good deeds. On this criteria Bill will be with us for a long time.

Enough of Bill ... now his partner Ros. Ros was always with him e.g. outside Frydenberg's office, everywhere. Helping, encouraging even, which was a bit naughty I thought. Recently, Frydenberg, Bill and Ros met again fortuitously entering a local coffee shop at the same time. Ros looked after Bill in the last months when the cancer had spread. Thank you, Ros.

Finally, in the pandemic, we all look at old stuff on YouTube. I found one on *Fiddler's Green* (<https://youtu.be/sBMi4uhkLw>) that I sent to Bill:

*Just tell me old shipmates, I'm taking a trip mates
And I'll see you someday on Fiddlers Green*

*Now Fiddler's Green is a place I've heard tell
Where the fishermen go if they don't go to hell
Where the sky is all clear and the dolphins do play
And the cold coast of Greenland is far, far away*

*Wrap me up in me oilskin and Jumber
No more on the docks I'll be seen
Just tell me old shipmates, I'm taking a trip mates
And I'll see you someday on Fiddlers Green*

*Where the skies are all clear and there's never a gail
And the fish jump on board with one swish on their tail
Where you lie at your leisure, there's no work to do
And the skipper's below making tea for the crew.*

Malcolm Cameron, 25 July 2022



11 September 2017

Ideology overtakes rational economics

Sound bites and slogans can only be successful if you assume you are talking to idiots. Smart businesses and smart communities actually understand the supply/demand equation that drives markets, an underpinning ideology of conservative governments that seems to elude the counter-intuitive ideological approach of the current federal government and the Victorian opposition.

Australia has an abundance of energy: sun, wind, water, coal. Supply is not an issue. Consumers are demanding cheaper energy, reliable energy, and environmentally sustainable energy management. That requires a skilled and nuanced approach to regulation, and the Australian Energy Market Operator is now filling the vacuum of past energy management. The conservative governments have dropped the ball, deluded that they are meeting the Paris commitments, and hoping an Abbott-led punch-up will win the day.

Every time the Prime Minister and Energy Minister Josh Frydenberg blame the states for not choosing variable-value, short-term gas fracking

over the destruction of valuable long-term agricultural land, they demonstrate how their ideology overtakes rational economics. Unless the anomaly of export versus local gas price is resolved, it doesn't matter how much gas we have: the price of electricity will continue to rise and our economy suffer.

*William Chandler
Surrey Hills, Vic*

27 September 2017

Adani opponents say no to subsidies



Protesters at Bondi for the nationwide Stop Adani march, October 7. PHOTO: AAP

Going backwards is not forward-thinking

I oppose the huge ill-conceived Adani coal mine for three reasons.

First, the proposal is based on a failing 20th-century economic model: global banks, including those in India, are choosing not to finance it because of the high risk of default of stranded assets.

Second, the three Queensland political parties mentioned are either conflicted or simply out of touch in their strong political desire to be in power at all costs: Labor, to protect marginal seats with the promise of jobs

by proposing very inefficient subsidies when more jobs could be provided in other enterprises; the recently returned LNP Minister Matt Canavan, self-professed lobbyist for the mining industry, who is taking no responsibility for effective economic or environmental outcomes; One Nation, with or without Malcolm Roberts, simply denies the significance of climate change action.

Third, Queensland is one state in Australia and, notwithstanding some reluctant support for the federal government's smoke and mirrors National Energy Guarantee "plans", we are not on track to meet our national committee to Paris Conference climate change targets, and the water hungry Adani mine proposal is backward-leaning when a forward-leaning approach is needed.

William Chandler
Surrey Hills, Vic

Why oppose it? Let me count the ways

The short answer to the question, "Who opposes Adani?" is "Just about

everyone!" The major reasons are science, reality and truth, compassion and morality based.

Another equally revealing question is, "Who supports Adani's Carmichael mega coal mine?"; the answer being, obviously very few.

They include the Queensland government, which wants the corrupt Adani-promoted "30,000" coal mine jobs; and the federal Coalition, clinging to the coal industry, their lobbyists and political donations.

The Queensland state election on November 25 will include the coal issue. It symbolises an Australia at the crossroads between coal and its consequences of destruction and death, or the healthy future of renewables with permanent jobs and justice for the environment and all life.

The immediate point is that most Australians stand firm (as seen in massive nationwide protests) with stopping Adani – a do or die, all-out, Beersheba-type charge by a majority to overcome the powerful but outnumbered, out-argued government minority.

Barbara Fraser
Barwood, Vic

1 November 2017



3 November 2017



23 November 2017



18 March 2018



18 February 2019

BCA out of step with smart business

When the Business Council of Australia doesn't even listen to its own members, it's not surprising that over-worked terms such as 'economy

wrecking' cause readers' eyes to glaze over ("BCA battles criticism", March 30). The 20th century marriage of business with the Liberal/National Coalition myth was broken under the Hawke government. Smart business looks to the future, not the past, and politely smiled when the government bounced lumps of coal around in Parliament. Smart business has long since realised that a rapid transition to renewable energy is in the interest of their shareholders and customers, regardless of what the BCA says. And, fortunately, evidence-based organisations such as the CSIRO are not seduced by ideological rhetoric.

William Chandler
Surrey Hills, Vic

1 April 2019



21 April 2019

21 April 2019



5 July 2019

Federal policy failure

ALL Australian states and territories are switched on to the importance of forward-looking policies and action that will keep our electricity switched on, reliable and cheaper, while minimising emissions.

The federal government continues to be the missing link. Presiding over increasingly high consumer prices and increasingly unreliable coal and gas generation, the minister continues to make promises that are too little, too late, and not credible.

For a decade, blind ideology has trumped evidence-based energy policy at great cost to consumers. Smart industry, and the states and territories, understand how to manage the transition. How long until the federal government joins the dots?

William Chandler, Surrey Hills

Sunday Herald Sun 15/9/19

'Sorry' is not enough

Bupa's apology for its appalling mistreatment of vulnerable older people will only have credibility when its directors realise they have failed to honour a commercial contract. Rather than just saying they promise to try harder, they need to refund the money to all the mistreated residents for services they did not provide.

William Chandler, Surrey Hills

The Age 19 September 2019

Real pragmatism

UNFORTUNATELY, Bjorn Lomborg has got left behind ("Pragmatism is way ahead on climate change", Opinion, Sept 19).

The discussion about planning for our future has moved on without him. The climate is changing, and the challenge of adapting to the change is increasing.

While a small number of scientists disagree with the majority on the causes, the focus has moved to the economics of adaptation more than just the environment. If we continue to subsidise fossil fuels and other greenhouse gas-producing activities, we simply pass on the health and other costs to future generations.

A rapid transition to renewables, storage and efficient grid management will both save us money and allow our kids and grandkids to have the future they deserve. That would be real pragmatism.

William Chandler, Surrey Hills Herald Sun 20 September 2019



20 November 2019

IF Infrastructure Partnerships
Australia wants to come up with more smart future-focused road taxing ideas, it would be wise to make sure that all road users are treated equally (*HS*, 21/11). I will be happy to pay for using my electric vehicle if the owners of petrol and diesel vehicles pay for the environmental damage caused by fossil fuels.
William Chandler, Surrey Hills

Herald Sun 22/11/2019

Herald Sun 10/12/2019

Price cuts at last

WHAT a relief that after years of rapidly rising electricity prices, the Energy Market Commission is predicting reductions "driven by the influx of new renewable generation that places downward pressure on wholesale pricing" ("Power bills to shrink", *HS*, 9/12).

It is reasonable to assume that Minister for Electricity Pricing and Emissions, Angus Taylor, has now seen the light and agrees, in contrast to his previous statements that electricity prices and emission are already decreasing.

William Chandler, Surrey Hills

Space for truth

WITH six lives and hundreds of homes lost, not to mention 2 million hectares in NSW and 200,000 hectares in Queensland all before summer proper, Andrew Bolt (*HS*, 9/12) picks the wrong time to copy dated global information about fire.

"Fires are now burning less land, not more", he writes — omitting advice from the same NASA sources that climate change has increased fire risk in many regions, the reductions being in farmers' controlled burns.

John Gare, Kew East

LETTERS

Morrison, the great evader

Many “quiet Australians” will have watched the Prime Minister speak at the National Press Club on Wednesday and given him credit for his consistency, smile, earnestness and focus on the future. His main theme (and over-long answers) was that what the government is doing is sufficient to guarantee us a good future.

In fact, he proposed short-term actions to address immediate problems such as bushfire recovery while ignoring past decisions and lack of action that have led to these problems.

Quiet Australians would also have observed his confidence in sidelining important questions with generalised answers, avoiding specifics, and not understanding why many voters question the credibility of the government, particularly the contrived statistics of the economic and environmental effects of global warming.

**William Chandler,
Surrey Hills**

The Age 31 January 2020

IF I had a spare \$150,000 and decided to add a sustainably-designed couple of rooms to my house for homeless people to use, would I qualify for the \$25,000 HomeBuilder gift that the Federal Government is offering?

William Chandler, Surrey Hills

Herald Sun 19/6/2020

Leaders too focused on the rear-view mirror

Smart investors and risk managers recognise and are taking the lead on the more far-reaching and longer-term risks of climate change. They see the high level of community support for taking action, but they also realise that lack of rapid action will result in serious economic disadvantage to Australia as smart industry worldwide moves from fossil fuels to renewables.

How long will it be until the federal government looks to the future and moves on from the politically weaponised climate wars started by Tony Abbott and his supporters? Looking in the rear-view mirror and seeing Maggie Thatcher and Ronald Reagan will not provide the leadership necessary to deal with the unprecedented challenges, and opportunities, of COVID-19.

William Chandler
Surrey Hills, Vic

AFR 28/7/2020

AGL feels the heat for inaction on coal

Widespread understanding in the community about the need to rapidly move from fossil fuels to cleaner renewables and storage means no one is being fooled by the likes of the AGL management.

AGL says it supports the Paris Agreement but behaves in ways that are counter to the reality and spirit of the deal the world has signed up to ("AGL comes under fresh fire on coal", August 6).

Both major political parties still support and subsidise dying thermal coal and gas industries. In contrast, smart business, investors, the market generally, and forward-looking unions increasingly recognise that cheaper, more reliable, and cleaner energy does not come out of a black or brown pit or a fracked coal seam.

COVID-19 is a serious economic and health challenge still to be met but national cabinet secrecy cannot be used as an excuse for irrational and hypocritical economic behaviour.

William Chandler
Surrey Hills, Vic

AFR 7/8/2020

AFR

Tuesday 13 July 2021
www.afr.com | The Australian Financial Review

Nats make climate worse for Libs

Highlighting the backward approach of the Nationals party, which ignores its traditional regional constituency while aiming to get enough votes to stay in a crude coalition with the Liberals, simultaneously clearly highlights the dilemma the Liberal Party has in needing the Nationals to stay in power ("AFR View: Climate populism repeats history", July 12).

It must be painful for progressive Liberals to watch their interest in having rational energy management policies for Australia constantly undermined.

However, to assume that "the costs of droughts, floods and fires are likely to be outweighed by the cost of winding back fossil fuel industries such as coal" is an unsubstantiated head-in-the-sand voice from the 20th century.

For Australia to hang on to its employment-reducing, carbon-intensive industries when smart business, informed voters and international forums are rapidly transitioning to cleaner, cheaper and reliable renewable energy is very short-term thinking.

Australia's fossil fuels served us well, but at a cost. Now our country's abundant renewable resources will be the driver of our job opportunities and prosperity in the 21st century, if we can stop looking in the misty rear-view mirror at fossil fuels.

William Chandler
Surrey Hills, Vic

AFR 13/7/2021



Nationals leader Barnaby Joyce will make life difficult for Prime Minister Scott Morrison in the run-up to COP26 in Glasgow in November. PHOTO: ALEX ELLINGHAUSEN

We need targets for emissions reduction

As the Coalition struggles to reach coherent agreement about climate change action, it will be a Pyrrhic victory for Scott Morrison if he manages to take a 2050 target to Glasgow.

Smart business and astute farmers long ago realised that rapid transition away from destructive emissions to renewable energy and productive efficiency was an economic opportunity, not a burden. Is there any chance the Coalition will realise that the 2030 and 2040 emission achievements are critical in reaching the 2050 target? Glasgow will expose the myopia of a country that relies on "digging stuff up and shipping out problems" rather than creatively value-adding to its diversity of rich resources.

William Chandler
Surrey Hills, Vic

AFR 4/10/2021

Risk facing bank loans tied to fossil fuels

It's hard to believe that Australia's banks are only now undertaking a "climate vulnerability assessment" on their loan portfolios ("RBA warns of climate finance risks", October 1).

A March report by the Bennett Institute at the University of Cambridge report found that Australia, with its economy "tied to fossil fuels", was forecast to be at risk of having its AAA credit rating downgraded by up to "four notches."

Ray Peck
Hawthorn, Vic

AFR 4/10/2021

Hyperventilating our way to the greenhouse talkfest

The Australian 18/10/2021

The brinkmanship displayed by Scott Morrison in trying to achieve a credible climate policy so close to the Glasgow conference is a sign of leadership weakness ("Warning to Nats on net zero failure", 15/10). It exposes the reality of the Coalition, where a minority of members and a minority party that gains less than 5 per cent of the national vote determine Australia's future.

After a decade of wasted economic and environmental opportunities, it seems that the best the Prime Minister will take to Glasgow will be a litany of slogans and spin, hoping that by focusing on Labor's inconsistency and big polluters such as China and India no one will notice.

William Chandler, Surrey Hills, Vic

Ironies abound on left and right

The climate change debate continues to reveal the humorous ironies of left/right politics. Once known as the "agrarian socialists", the Nationals have become the "mining socialists", demanding massive subsidies from the Treasurer's already seriously challenged national deficit. Then Mark Collette's plaintive cry, on behalf of fossil fuel miners, magnifies a rent-seeking approach of encouraging investors to squander money on stranded assets. Meanwhile, the National Farmer Federation takes a much more innovative approach to transition, although it has not forgotten it was duded by the Coalition in the Kyoto agreement. Could the next irony be coal king Gautam Adani, as a keynote speaker at COP26, thanking PM Morrison for coming to Glasgow?

William Chandler
Surrey Hills, Vic

AFR 19/10/2021

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William Chandler
Surrey Hills, Vic

AFR 4/10/2021

We will spin our way to Glasgow

The brinkmanship displayed by Prime Minister Scott Morrison in trying to achieve a credible energy and climate change policy so close to the COP26 Glasgow is a clear sign of leadership weakness, not a strength ("Australia must seek net zero energy advantage", Editorial, October 14).

It exposes the reality of the federal Coalition, where a minority of the members of a minority party that gains less than 5 per cent of the national vote determines Australia's future. After a decade of wasted economic and environmental opportunities, it seems that the best Morrison will take to Glasgow will be a litany of slogans and spin, hoping that by focusing on Labor's inconsistency and big polluters such as China and India, no one will notice.

The main players have already noticed, and have a clear understanding that the short-term blip in international energy markets will not slow down the rapid transition from fossil fuels to cheaper, low-emission and job-providing renewables with efficient storage alongside 21st-century innovation in agriculture and transport.

William Chandler
Surrey Hills, Vic

AFR 15/10/2021



We need a carbon plan from Scott Morrison and Angus Taylor. PHOTO: JESSICA HRONAKS



This is a critical issue that is above tribal politics

A real plan is a detailed pathway towards a desired future, transparently underpinned by well-researched evidence. The Prime Minister's aspirational wish list of unsupported ideas is not a plan.

This lack of credibility is exacerbated by his continuing habit of mouthing things which are not true. There is not 100 per cent support in the government for his plan, and 70 per cent of voters do not agree that his ephemeral approach to climate change and energy management is the "Australian way".

This is not a tribal, party-political issue, where the primary goal is to wedge the opposition. We can no longer afford the economic, environmental and health damage caused by a decade of inaction. Government by slogan and spin is costing us dearly and passing on an enormous debt and challenge to our children and grandchildren.

The Age 29/10/2021

William Chandler, Surrey Hills