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Des Houghton: How a \$45.6 billion gas



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We don't really need wind farms. We have huge volumes of gas under our feet

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The value of our gas assets was reset this week at an astonishing \$489.7 billion.

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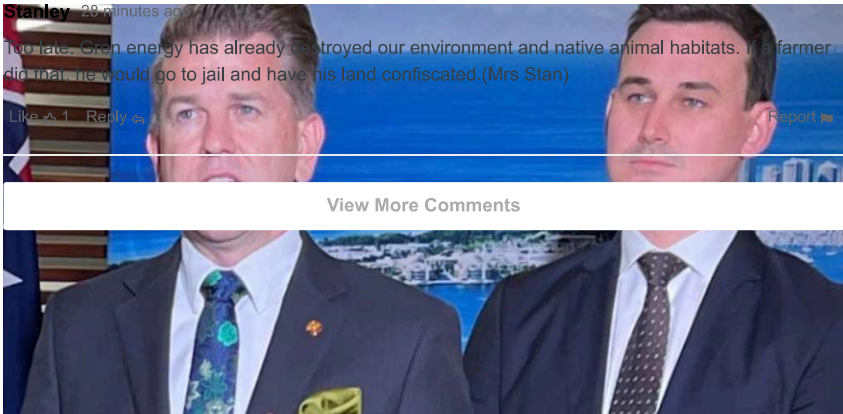
Stanley 28 minutes ago

Too late. Green energy has already destroyed our environment and native animal habitats. If a farmer did that, he would go to jail and have his land confiscated.(Mrs Stan)

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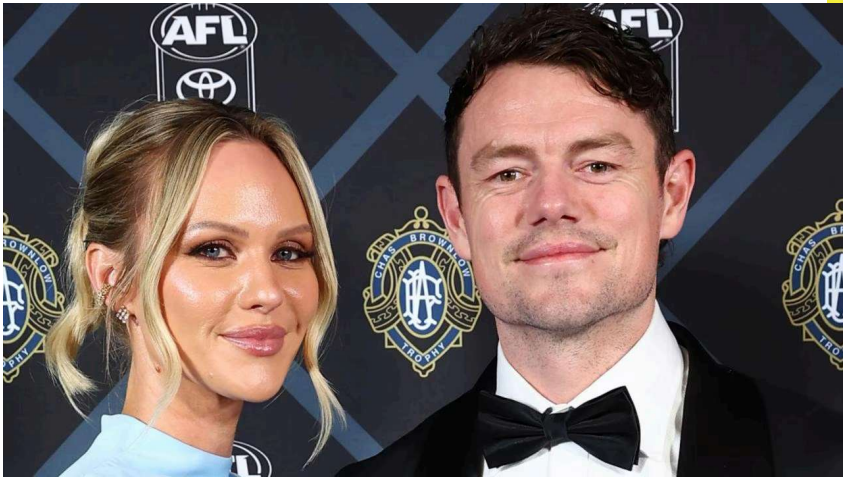
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Technology & Digital Safety

How ‘convenience’ could be making your life harder

The future was supposed to make life easier – so why does buying a hairdryer now require a code, a depot and a trip to NATL STG PCL LKR ... whatever that is, writes Susie O'Brien



Opinion

Cheating is bad – this horrible question is even worse

Jules Neale’s raw account of discovering her husband’s infidelity has reignited the age-old question of whether friends should speak up about a cheating partner, writes Madonna King.

Or will public servants allow the ideological zealots in the ALP and the Greens to block gas exploration and rob them of potential pay rises?

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Labor’s attempts to strongarm Queensland into exclusively using renewables to power data centres is another attack on our economic sovereignty. No royalties

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Energy Market Operator says gas production from legacy fields in southern states is forecast to decline 40 per cent over the next five years.
There will be more pressure on Queensland to pick up the slack," he told me.

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Opinion

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Opinion

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Eastern-Gas-chief-David-Spring-

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Eastern Gas is using bold new techniques to turn gas exploration in this state upside down.

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The firm is initially drilling down 425m to a gas-bearing coal seam up to six metres thick. Instead of simply passing through the coal, the well will then turn and travel along it, Spring explains.

This habit is key for healthy ageing

“Historically, most coal seam gas wells in Queensland’s Surat have been drilled straight down through the coal seams,” he says. Now, gas companies are using more sophisticated drilling techniques that allow the well to turn underground and travel along the coal seam.

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“Instead of a well passing through a relatively small section of gas-bearing coal, it can run along the seam for hundreds or even thousands of metres. This gives us the well access to much more gas that was previously too expensive to extract.”

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Royals

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Junior grand final stars

Stylish drilling more family friendly

honours Steve’s memory 20 years on

Storm star Harry Grant reveals secret Melb home



“Arrow Energy, for example, has used angled and more complex wells in Queensland to increase the amount of gas-bearing coal reached by each well. This reflects a broader shift towards designing wells to follow the geology underground.”

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The new buzzwords are directional drilling. Drilling horizontally along the seam can release additional gas, turning a marginal gas resource into a commercially viable one.

Gold Coast

Opinion

Storm star Harry Grant reveals secret Melb home

There are 10,000 gas wells in Queensland, most conventional vertical



Entertainment

Celebrity Life



The Ipswich City Council is considering a 72m, 10 storey data centre in Swanbank.

Spring knows his way around a gas field. He has had 40 years in petroleum as a geoscientist, exploration leader and senior executive across Australia, North America, Europe, the Middle East, South America the Caribbean and North Africa. He began as a geophysicist with Esso Australia exploring the Cooper Basin.

He spent more than a decade with BHP Petroleum in Australia and overseas.

Four years with Maersk Oil and management responsibility for the El Merk gas development in Algeria later led Mubadala Petroleum's global exploration portfolio in the UAE.

In 2015 Spring joined Senex Energy, partly owned by Gina Rinehart, to begin exploring opportunities in the Cooper and Surat Basins.

The ACCC's latest "Gas inquiry interim report, June 2026" shows Queensland exports roughly 90 per cent of the gas produced in the state.

At home, gas is used to provide energy for fertiliser and explosives manufacturing and alumina and minerals processing.

The gas industry certainly attracts some characters.

Eastern Gas raised \$5.5 million and joined the ASX in February. Its biggest shareholder is Pure One Corporation, formerly Pure Hydrogen, which is chaired by former Northern Territory chief minister Adam Giles, one of Mrs Rinehart's lieutenants.

Spring engaged Viv Oldfield's company, Silver City Drilling, to do his drilling.

Oldfield, a cattleman, is Australia's biggest private landholder and owns several properties with a total area of 78,000sq km, roughly the area of Scotland.

Originally published as [Des Houghton: How a \\$45.6 billion gas royalties bonanza could transform Queensland's future](#)



Des Houghton

News24 Wine & Travel Editor



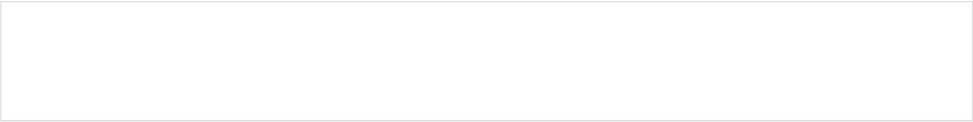


Award-winning journalist Des Houghton has had a distinguished career in Australian and UK media. From breaking major stories to editing Queensland's premier newspapers The Sunday Mail and The Courier-Mail, and news-editing the Daily Sun and the Gold Coast Bulletin, Des has been at the forefront of newsgathering for decades. In that time he has edited news and sport and opinion pages to crime, features, arts, business and travel and lifestyle sections. He has written everything from restaurant reviews to political commentary.

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