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Rusty Tuckeroo
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81 Cullen Street
Nimbin 2480
Phone 6689-1148
nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com

Northern Rivers invades Adani territory

by Alan Roberts

Our aim was to get to the heart of Adani territory to put the frighteners on anyone stupid enough to invest any money on the Adani coal madness and that, if they did, they'd lose their money. By chance we adopted the Queensland election week in the Stop Adani camp and, in part, were responsible for a sullied Adani never being out of the news.

Four of our crew emerged on the stage for the tight security leaders' debate in Townsville Casino, with stop Adani banners and vocals before being removed by security – video that was carried by four major TV stations. The police still don't know how they got in.

We, including local Indigenous and locals, did a three hour classy NR style occupation with banners and great protest songs, of the LNP sitting member for Whitsunday's office. This was covered by TV and print media. The absent member, Jason Costigan, had claimed he was the only one with the "balls to get the Adani mine up". He also whinged about his billboard being trutified for election day – story in local media for the amusement of not just motorists. Motorists passing our occupation honked in jubilation. Significantly there were no red neck type abusers. Later I heard cries of "Stop Adani!" and there was our mob on foot chasing Costigan on horseback in the Proserpine main street. He had two horse woman escorts. There was a skirmish as someone grabbed a placard from one of the escorts and she in turn grabbed our banner. The TV cameraman was scooting around. Costigan suffered a 10.4% swing against him but not enough to unseat him.

Uncle Kenny Dodd, one of our interviewees, expressed his heartfelt thanks, saying it was the best action he'd been part of. Uncle Kenny has been fighting the Urannah dam proposal for years and that was part of our protest. Githabul elder, Ydo, travelled up with us to support Uncle Kenny's fight and stayed.

We found Adani contractors doing core drilling on the roadside where the proposed Adani rail line meets the Bowen Basin line. We did a series of "walk onto the worksite and stop work until the cops arrive to give the lengthy move on direction and we decide whether to comply" style actions. Cops and workers were good natured about it but the



Uncle Kenny and supporters



Costigan occupation

workers complained that they were being paid by the metre, so it was costing them. They did listen to our arguments.

After being moved on we stopped for a picnic in the park at Collinsville. Whilst picnicking TRG (terror) cops from Bowen circled us three times in a paddy-wagon and tell-tale trailer then came over for a very amusing interrogation (on video) about whether the bamboo poles were for barricades (tripods), did we have any sleeping dragons on board? Did we have any of those dragons made from bits of pipe at

an angle? Later on came a statewide, stop and search for protest equipment, alert for a white truck and yellow and white bus in order to slow them up – an illegal politicisation of police.

Earlier in the week we'd transported the six multi-faith 'leaders' and support crew to block gates that Adani rail workers used to get to their work site – a trip that involved overnight camping because of the distance and timing. This was the trip in which the Belyando Crossing roadhouse refused to sell fuel to our truck.

We also did some interesting scouting around the proposed mine site. The Adani camp was guarded by Mick, the ex Federal cop and Whitehaven security chap who wanted us out of his driveway and other sensitive sites- see pic.

There is plenty to do in the Stop Adani camp but those going up need to understand that:

We were camped on important private land on the very strong condition that everyone who came onto the land was vouched for as having genuine NvDA experience, known to the movement, active etc. There are many who we know who fit that category. That info needs to be passed up the line before directions to the camp site can be given.

We had to shake off a police tail when heading back to camp and others have had to go to devious lengths to throw off tails. So naive unaware people could destroy a well functioning system and future actions.

The current camp has limited capacity for people numbers, so please register on the FLAC site and get a response before heading up. It seems a bigger camp is on the way – watch the FLAC site: <https://frontlineaction.org/>

Thanks to our drivers who remained cheery, obliging and awake despite a very long tiring trip. Thanks also to Nimbin Environment Centre, one of the sponsors of this operation.

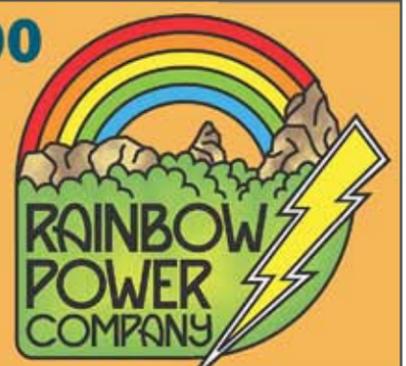
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