Landcare Australia leaders are linked to the coal seam gas industry by a network of companies and organizations with controversial environmental ethics.

In his first interview as Chair of Landcare Australia Limited (LAL), Mr Campbell Anderson warned of the risk for the Landcare brand to be used to greenwash bad corporate behavior.

“We have to be aware of the possibility that some might want to partner with Landcare in order to greenwash what might otherwise be bad corporate behaviour.”

Campbell Anderson

Landcare in Focus Nov 2012, p12.

In a world of increasing conflict over land and water rights, where mining companies, farmers and conservationists jostle for the right to manage natural resource dominance above and below the ground, LAL’s main communication medium “Landcare in Focus” is consistently free of controversy.  I ssues such as oil exploration, coal seam gas (CSG), wood-chipping, and the impact of coal mining in agricultural districts and environmentally sensitive areas are an important topic to Landcare volunteers across Australia, yet these subjects have never been discussed in LAL’s quarterly publication.

Whoever controls the media, controls the message and whoever controls the message controls the masses, so whoever controls communications from Landcare Australia holds a powerful position.

71% of LAL board members are publicly associated with companies and organizations that derive significant financial benefit from mining, oil and gas interests. Three LAL board members are also directors of companies that expect to earn billions of dollars from coal seam gas in coming decades.

71% of LAL board members are associated with the mining, oil and coal seam gas industry.

Eleven LAL corporate partners involved in mining & CSG have contributed tens of millions of dollars worth of sponsorship to Landcare Australia according to LAL annual reports. LAL retains approximately 30% of funds derived from corporate sponsors as a management fee. A very healthy surplus cash fund now exists, with a significant proportion of corporate donations retained from year to year rather than being distributed to Landcare projects, LAL has accumulated assets in excess of $10 million.

Mining & CSG corporate partners have contributed tens of millions of dollars in sponsorship

to Landcare Australia.

**CORPORATE PARTNERS**

Current and former LAL board members are also directors of Australia's major environmental polluters and fossil fuel companies.

Landcare Australia corporate partners that benefit from the mining and CSG industry:

* Origin Energy
* Citipower/ Powercor
* Santos
* Orica
* Jemena
* Westpac
* Alcoa
* BHP
* ERA,
* Rio Tinto.

Former LAL corporate partners Origin Energy and Santos operate a number of coal seam gas extraction and fracking operations in Queensland. Other LAL corporate partners associated with companies that benefit from financing or servicing the CSG industry include **Freehills**, **Orica**, **Westpac** and Australia’s biggest energy infrastructure company **Jemena**. **Jemena** owns the Queensland Gas Pipeline (QBP), transporting coal seam gas to the coast for export.

Several members of the LAL board have a close association with companies, organisations and individuals involved with the CSG industry. Some LAL directors are either current or former directors of Australia's major environmental polluters including coal and petrochemical firms such as **BHP** and **Orica**.  LAL has received significant financial and in-kind support from Orica, which has been fined millions of dollars for unauthorised release of mercury, cyanide and ammonia into Australia's environment.  Orica is a workplace giving and corporate volunteer partner with LAL.

LAL directors associated with the mining and CSG industry:

* Campbell Anderson
* Peter Hay
* Graham Jennings
* Jerry Ellis
* Alex Arbuthnot.

Current LAL directors and advisors publically associated with companies and organisations invovled with mining and the CSG industry include: Campbell Anderson, Peter Hay, Graham Jennings, Jerry Ellis, and Alex Arbuthnot.

**CAMPBELL ANDERSON**

**North Ltd** was one of Landcare’s largest corporate sponsors during the 1990’s and operated the world’s largest native forest wood-chipping export business based in Tasmania before it was sold to Gunns Pty Ltd in 2001.

North’s Chairman,Michael Deeley was appointed by Victorian Minister for Conservation and Natural Resources Marie Tehan to the role of Deputy Chairman of Parks Victoria.  Deeley was also appointed President of the Victorian Environment Protection Authority Board in January 1997 and was concurrently the National President and Chairman of Greening Australia.  Deeley was also managing director of ICI before it changed its name to **Orica**.

Chairman of the LAL board, Mr Anderson has an extensive career serving the fossil fuel industry, including managing director of Burmah Oil in the late 1980’s where he did deals with and on behalf of joint owner, convicted fraudster and conman, Alan Bond.

Anderson was the Former Chairman of **ERA**, where he was responsible for the controversial Ranger and Jabiluka uranium mine developments in the 1990’s that still threaten the world heritage status of Kakadu National Park today.

He was CEO of **North Ltd** from 1993-1998.

Anderson has been an Independent director of Clough Limited since September, 2003, providing engineering, procurement and construction services to the [CSG](http://www.clough.com.au/markets/energy-and-chemicals/csg) industry via its subsidiaries [Clough Seam Gas](http://www.clough.com.au/news/2012/05/17/clough-establishes-coal-seam-gas-division) and [E2O Pty Ltd](http://e2o.com.au/). Its [clients](http://www.asx.com.au/asxpdf/20110916/pdf/42144fyss0xdh9.pdf) include former LAL corporate partners **Santos** and **Origin Energy**.

Malaysia’s state-owned Petronas recently [bulldozed](http://www.bmf.ch/en/news/sarawak-geoportal-discloses-rainforest-damage-brought-about-by-petronas-gas-pipeline-in-malaysian-borneo) a 500km trail of destruction through rainforest to build a gas pipeline between Sabah and Sarawak, against the wishes of indigenous land-owners. French owned Total was [banned from fracking](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/oct/11/france-fracking-ban-shale-gas) for shale gas in France and had its exploration licenses cancelled by the French government in 2011. Korean state owned Kogas is accused of contributing to human rights violations and environmental destruction of sensitive ecological areas during the [construction of gas pipelines in Myanmar](http://www.banktrack.org/manage/ajax/ems_dodgydeals/createPDF/shwe_gas_and_pipelines_projects).

Clough also operates an $80 million 50/50 joint venture with Transfield services constructing QGC Pty Ltd’s Queensland Curtis Liquefied Natural Gas Project (QCLNGP). Clough’s joint venture partners working on coal seam gas projects near Gladstone in Queensland include Petronas, Total and Kogas.

Clough Limited also partners with Arrow Energy and plans to open coal seam gas wells on the [Darling Downs and Cecil Plains](http://www.crikey.com.au/2013/01/30/can-farmers-live-with-csg-the-war-over-co-existence/?wpmp_switcher=mobile) cropping districts of NSW. Arrow is jointly owned by Royal Dutch Shell and Petro China, owned by China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC).

Arrow Energy parent CNPC was [suspended](http://businessdayonline.com/2014/05/chad-suspends-chinas-cnpc-unit-over-environmental-violations/) from exploration and drilling activities in Chad due to environmental violations, accused of failing to conduct environmental impact assessments on gas-pipeline construction in Tibet, barred from commencing new projects by China’s Ministry of Environmental Protection for violating pollution laws in 2013, and accused of supporting [human rights abuses](http://www.trilliuminvest.com/resolutions/human-rights-1/) in Tibet, East Turkestan and Sudan.

Anderson was chairman of the [failed](http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2003/12/02/1070351580970.html) shale oil gas company Southern Pacific Petroleum (SPP) which collapsed in 2003 along with the loss of $40 million in tax-payer funds. Toxic dioxin emissions from SPP’s refineries were blamed for affecting the [health](http://www.dailymercury.com.au/news/apn-plan-brings-back-sick/71900/) of nearby communities and potentially affecting the [Great Barrier Reef](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stuart_Oil_Shale_Project#cite_note-pbbsm-14).

Anderson is on the board of Macquarie Bank’s Venture capital arm Macquarie Direct Investment, where he was founder and [major shareholder](http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2004/06/14/1087065082782.html?from=storylhs) of coal seam gas company CH4 Limited, which [merged](http://clients.weblink.com.au/news/asx_pdf_loader.asp?articleID=4178953&dummyext=.pdf) with Arrow Energy in 2006.

Macquarie Bank is accused by receivers Kordamentha of misleading and deceptive conduct during its bid to seize control of failed timber company Gunns.

Co-founder of CH4, [David Wrench](http://www.strikeenergy.com.au/about-us/board.html), is now the managing director of CSG producer Strike Engery which is [financed](http://www.businessspectator.com.au/article/2013/7/16/resources-and-energy/orica-joins-third-way-gas) by **Orica** to commercialise its coal seam gas business in a deal worth more than $52.5 million.

Anderson has previously been president of the Minerals Council of Australia, which is closely aligned to [Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association Ltd](http://www.appea.com.au/) ([APPEA](http://www.naturalcsg.com.au/)).  Both organisations advocate in favour of and lobby on behalf of the coal seam gas industries. The minerals council of Australia recently made a [submission](http://www.mineralscouncil.com.au/file_upload/files/submissions/MCA_Victoria_-_Gas_Market_Taskforce_Submission.pdf) to the Victorian Government’s Gas Taskforce stating that Environmental Impact Assessments for CSG projects would be an “unnecessary and excessive regulatory burden on exploration projects”.

Environmental Impact Assessments are an unnecessary and excessive regulatory burden on CSG exploration projects.

Minerals Council of Australia

**ALEX ARBUTHNOT**

LAL board member, Alex Arbuthnot is a regular attendee at government enquiries, mining industry, farming and landcare events in his role as a representative of the National Farmers Federation and the Victorian Farmers Federation mining sub-committee where he campaigns in favour of mining and CSG activities in agricultural districts on behalf of the Minerals Council of Australia and the mining industry as a whole. He publicly supports mining on farms, including Coal Seam Gas extraction in Victoria.

“I would earn a lot more from a coal seam gas well on my farm than I would from milking cows, and I wouldn't have to get up at four o'clock in the morning.”

Alex Arbuthnot, 19 Sep 2011

Giving evidence to a Victorian Government [inquiry](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/images/stories/committees/edic/greenfields_mineral_exploration/hearings/20110919_-_VFF.pdf) into mineral exploration in 2011 Arbuthnot said “I have always advised , ‘Be very careful you are not the last person left with a mine all around you. Do you still want to live there?’. If you go to the mining company and say, ‘Can I have my compensation now?’, the mining company might say, ‘No, you can stay there’”.

Alcoa is one of Australia's top 50 carbon polluters, directly emitting 6,757,567 tonnes of carbon in 2009/2010.

Source: Dept of Climate Change, Greenhouse and Energy Information

**PETER HAY**

LAL director, Peter Hay, is also a director of Western Mining Corporation spinoff Alumina Limited. In partnership with former LAL corporate partner **Alcoa** Alumina owns the controversial Alcoa World Alumina which, according to Bloomberg, "agreed to pay $384 million to resolve U.S. criminal and civil probes, after a unit admitted paying tens of millions of dollars in bribes to members of Bahrain’s royal family and officials at a state-owned company to win business."  Alcoa has [invested](http://www.news.com.au/finance/business/alcoa-hails-shale-as-long-term-energy-supply/story-fnda1bsz-1226521557151) up to $200 million in Australia developing coal seam and shale gas reserves.

“The Hidden Valley Gold Mine is situated at the headwaters of the Watut River in the Bulolo District of the Morobe Province, PNG.  Its operations have the potential to affect water quality of the Watut River.  Local communities complain of heavy sedimentation up and down the Watut, damage to food gardens and tree crops, erosion, foreign material and siltation well beyond the established mine impact area. There is significant evidence of vegetation dieback on the Watut river banks and shallows.” (watutriver.com) Deputy Opposition Leader Hon. Sam Basil, MP Bulolo leads a campaign to force Newcrest to comply with PNG environmental laws and compensate traditional landowners.

He is a director of Lazard Australia, Newcrest Mining, former CEO of **Freehills** and non-executive Director of ANZ Bank. Bermuda based Lazard provides financial and investment services to major players in the coal industry and is a joint venture partner with Australia’s largest independent technical advisor to the oil and gas sector RISC Operations. Newcrest Mining owns the controversial Hidden Valley mine on the Watut River in Papua New Guinea.

**Freehills**, another LAL corporate partner, provides legal and investment services in support of companies seeking to carry out fracking to extract CSG in South East Australia as well as supporting the work of companies involved with existing CSG and pipeline operations in Queensland. ANZ Bank is one of the largest financiers assisting to develop coal ports and CSG processing plants along the [Queensland coast](http://www.echo.net.au/2014/01/bank-facilitating-csg-mining/) including [Whitehaven's controversial Maules Creek](http://www.theage.com.au/federal-politics/political-opinion/potential-jailing-not-as-scary-as-threat-of-maules-creek-mine-20130123-2d78s.html) coal project.

The PNG government accuses ANZ of financing illegal logging companies and fraudulent land grabs from indigenous peoples. [Oxfam claims](http://www.smh.com.au/business/banking-and-finance/banks-face-land-grab-claims-in-developing-world-20140427-zr0bg.html) that ANZ has financed Cambodian sugar plantations that use child labour and military-backed evictions.

After a long community supported campaign, ANZ backed out of financing the controversial Gunns wood-chip pulp mill in Tasmania due to environmental concerns.

**GRAHAM JENNINGS**

LAL also works in partnership with **Westpac** whose questionable environmental credentials include the financing of illegal rainforest logging and forced land-grabs, causing environmental destruction in PNG and the Solomon islands, affecting thousands of indigenous landholders. Westpac and its subsidiaries Bank of Melbourne, BankSA, St George and Hastings, also [invest heavily](http://www.marketforces.org.au/banks/compare/) in the financing of coal export infrastructure, and the development of the CSG industry in Australia. Former Westpac General Manager (Agribusiness) Graham Jennings was appointed to the board of LAL in 2003. He retired from his position at Westpac in February 2014.

Maules Creek Coal Mine in NSW’s Leard State forest will become Australia’s largest open cut coal mine. Over 100 ha of exotic grasslands and over 2000 hectares of forest will need to be cleared potentially affecting threatened fauna species including birds, bats and koalas. The project is opposed by environmentalists, local farmers and some local traditional owners, the Gameroi people.

**FAIRFAX MEDIA**

Another LAL sponsor, **Fairfax Medi**a is 14.9% owned by climate change skeptic Gina Rinehart, seeking to use her influence to promote her extreme right-wing pro-mining agendas. She is also a major supporter of Barnaby Joyce who is a heavy investor in coal seam gas company shares and land speculation in CSG territory and responsible for $480 million in cuts to the National Landcare budget in 2014. Fairfax media is paid by LAL to distribute the Landcare In Focus magazine, which has never included any articles related to the coal seam gas industry or coal mining, despite these issues being a hot topic for community landcare groups around Australia.

**The Ok Tedi environmental disaster** adversely affected 50,000 people in 150 villages downstream of the mine between 1984-2013. Under Jerry Ellis’s management, BHP [discharge](http://web.archive.org/web/20060820172746/http:/www.oktedi.com/aboutus/keyStatistics.php)d 80 million tons of contaminated [tailings](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tailings), [overburden](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Overburden) and mine-induced erosion into the Ok Tedi River and Fly river system each year, killing fish, wildlife and over 3000 hectares of forest. Former BHP CEO, Paul Anderson, said that the [Ok Tedi Mine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ok_Tedi_Mine) was "not compatible with our environmental values and the company should never have become involved."

. In 2013, Rinehart’s Hancock Prospecting [invested](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-01-30/rinehardt-to-have-considerable-influence-in-lakes/4491326) $4 million into Victorian company Lakes Oil, hoping to put pressure on the Victorian government to remove its moratorium on CSG exploration so that the company can start drilling for gas in Western Victoria and Gippsland.

**JERRY ELLIS**

Another discredited former LAL Chairman is Jerry Ellis. His was president of the Minerals Council of Australia and Chairman of **BHP**, responsible for the $6 billion Magma Copper and HBI disasters. Ellis was CEO of BHP’s minerals division during the Ok Tedi mine environmental disaster in PNG. He is also a director of ANZ, which has lent over $2.3 billion to companies developing coal ports and CSG processing plants along the Queensland coast.

**A PRECAUTIONARY TALE:**

In Queensland alone, existing CSG projects that involve Landcare corporate partners are predicted to generate over $10billion in federal tax revenue per year for the next 30 years.  If scientific evidence and environmental risk assessments stack up against exploration for unconventional gas in NRM catchment areas then community Landcare groups may decide to oppose CSG exploration by supporting campaigns such as Lock the Gate.

A small group of businessmen, more comfortable in a Melbourne Club Chesterfield than a Massey Furguson, are in charge of Australia’s leading not-for-profit Landcare organisation and connected by a web of corporations with a history of unethical behavior toward the environment.

The boss of Landcare Australia Limited, Mr Campbell Anderson, warns us to be aware of those who might want to partner with Landcare in order to greenwash bad corporate behaviour.

We should pay attention to his advice.