

Double Glaze Matters

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Alan Cuthbertson

alan@diydoublinglaze.com.au

We stopped the Boats!

Earlier this month you may have heard of a blockade of the Newcastle coal port by around 1,500 protesters. I and a couple of friends were among them.

When we joined the protest we were not sure what would happen. Technically it is illegal to enter the shipping channel in the port. If the police asked you to leave and you didn't you could

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The Newcastle Blockade



We stopped the Boats!

be arrested. I had never disobeyed a policeman before and wasn't sure if civil disobedience was really my thing. After all we live in a democracy and if you don't like something you vote for a government that will change it.

However, our government has signed the Paris agreement to limit climate change to 1.5 degrees. To do that 75% of all known reserves of fossil fuels must stay in the ground. Until our government can admit to this and come up with a plan to achieve it, we have a right to take steps to highlight the issue.

I feel that the actions of the fossil fuel industry is a crime against future generations. This is not unlike the actions of the asbestos industry and we are entitled to take non-violent direct action against them. This is even more so when they continue to want to open new mines such as the giant

Carmichael mine in Qld that Adani wishes to open.

Anyway, back to Newcastle. Over 1,500 people were present and around 400 took to the water in canoes. And we won! The coal industry decided that the bad publicity from running over some canoes wasn't worth it and all shipping movements were halted for the whole day. The police were quite friendly. They kept an eye on us from several boats and jetskis, but took no further action. So we were not arrested.

However for 70 other protesters it was a different story. They lay on the train line, stopping coal trains for 6 hours. All were arrested, including the Climate Angels.

For more information, visit www.australia.breakfree2016.org.



The Climate Angels—Laying it on the line