

#StopAdaniChallenge Guide to meeting your MP



Overview: The federal coalition is proposing to hand over \$1bn of public money to Adani. All across the country, local Stop Adani groups have gone into their communities and collected thousands of surveys. It is now time for these groups to make their voices heard. By delivering these surveys to their MPs, these groups will be putting direct pressure on our elected officials.

In Queensland, the state government has the power to veto NAIF loans for their state. This means that even if the NAIF does grant \$1bn of public funds to Adani, the Queensland Government can overturn this decision. As such, Queensland groups are targeting their state MPs during the #StopAdaniChallenge, and some information may differ slightly.

Setting up the meeting: Meeting your MP can be a daunting task. It is important to remember that your MP is obliged to meet with you, and their other constituents. Calling their office and saying, "I am a resident of your electorate, and I would like to come and meet with you about the Adani mine" should be enough.

If you're unsure which federal electorate you live in, you can [find out here](#). (If you're still unsure, you may have to check one of [these maps](#)).

In preparation for your meeting

- Collect at least 100 surveys as part of the Stop Adani Challenge, and collate the results in [this template](#)
- Contact the relevant #StopAdani organiser (Emily, Rosy, Em, Ray) to help you put together a briefing note for your MP
- Set up a Facebook event, with your MP's office as the venue and invite your family, friends and members
- Get creative - paint a banner, make a placard, costumes, props, etc
- Decide who will go into the meeting, and make sure that everyone is well prepped and feeling good about it - remember that in addition to this meeting being important to put pressure on your MP, everything that you do as a group should build your skills, capacity and power. You should aim for there to be no more than 4 people in your meeting, so to not overcrowd your member.
- Have an agenda ([template here](#)), and briefing note ready to go (we can help you with this). Note: *If you are in Queensland*, use [this agenda](#) instead, which focuses more on the important role of the Queensland State Labor Government
- Think about how your MP might respond to some of your questions

The day before

- Send out a reminder message to your Facebook event and email list. Text people with key roles
- Make sure any banners, costumes etc. are ready to go
- Send out a media alert to local newspaper, radio and television station - [see here](#) for a template and [here](#) for a guide to securing local media

On the day

- First thing, call your local paper and radio station - ask if they've seen the alert and whether they are coming along (they may ask you to re-send the alert)
- A couple of you should aim to get there at least 15 minutes early
- Introduce yourself to people as they arrive
- Aim to have one or two people speak to the gathered crowd (and any media who turn up). A short speech is a good speech!

In the meeting

- Make sure you are dressed tidy, but casual
- Be respectful
- Be yourself! You don't need to know every fact about Adani's mine, or the NAIF to have an effective meeting - be upfront about the fact that you're a *teacher/mechanic/grandparent/concerned community member*, and not a policy expert. It is a powerful thing to connect with our politicians on a personal level
- Stay on topic and keep your cool. It's unlikely that you and your MP will agree on all aspects of every issue, and that's okay. Remember that *it's more important to make your concerns heard than to convince your MP.*
- Ask questions! Be curious about your MP, their position on the issue and why they hold this position.
- Tell your MP how you will follow up - what you decide to do with your MP after the meeting will depend on how the meeting goes, but you should at least offer to get in contact after the national survey results are available, and share them with your MP.
- Have fun!

After the meeting

- Debrief with your team: what worked well, what could have been better, ideas for what to do next?
- Share any media coverage with us and your team (info@stopadani.com)
- Share your best photos and all media coverage on social media with the hashtags #StopAdani and #StopAdaniChallenge
- Make sure you chase anything you promised to follow up with your MP
- Get in touch with the community organiser for your area and tell us how you went! We'd love to hear from you! We'll be collecting info from across the country about the positions MPs take.