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MEDIA RELEASE

NQCC CALLS FOR FEDERAL ACTION ON COAL AND CSG

North Queensland Conservation Council yesterday joined the national campaign, spearheaded by Lock the Gate, calling for federal parliament to take action to stop the rapid and inappropriate escalation of coal and coal seam gas mining threatening Australian communities.

The Federal Government spends up to \$10 billion on subsidies to big coal and gas corporation each year. Stopping these subsidies was one of eight demands that NQCC posted on the door of Ewen Jones' office.

According to NQCC Coordinator Wendy Tubman "Too often Federal MPs tell us that approvals linked to coal and coal seam gas mining are a State responsibility. Yesterday we gave Ewen Jones a list of eight things the Federal government could do immediately to protect Australia from this invasion of mining on a scale not seen before in our country. This list was given to Federal MPS throughout the nation."

"Mining is irrevocably damaging agricultural land and risks our underground water supplies. This is not good guardianship of our country and lacks any responsibility towards future generations."

"We want to see bipartisan action now," Wendy Tubman said. "This isn't about party politics, this is about our country and the citizens of Australia."

The eight demands of the national campaign call for the Federal government to:

1. Put in place an urgent moratorium on coal seam gas and other unconventional gas mining.
2. Create no-go zones to protect productive agricultural land, national tourism icons and all residential dwellings from coal and gas mining.
3. Strengthen the Federal environment laws to exclude coal and gas mining from important water sources, cultural heritage sites and sensitive environment areas.
4. Put in place national standards on coal and gas pollution and enforce compliance.
5. Stop using taxpayers' money to provide handouts to big coal and gas corporations and make the miners pay their fair share in taxes.
6. Reject current development proposals for coal ports, mega-mines, dams and unconventional gas wells in significant areas.

7. Conduct research into greenhouse gas emissions from mining and make sure they are properly accounted and fully paid for.

8. Hold a Royal Commission to investigate the management of coal and gas resources by all Australian governments.

For more information on the campaign see: www.calltocountry.org.au

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