



114 Boundary Street
Railway Estate, Townsville
Qld, 4810
PO Box 364, Townsville
Ph: 61 07 47716226
office@nqcc.org.au
www.nqcc.org.au

MEDIA RELEASE

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We'll make it worse – you fix it

Representatives of environmental groups meeting in Brisbane last week were frustrated and outraged by the apparent lack of serious cooperation between the Federal and State governments on the issue of climate change.

“We were told that the Federal government focuses on *limiting* climate change while the Queensland government focuses *solely* on *adapting* to climate change. This ridiculous demarcation means that the State government can do what it likes to make the situation worse because it sees its Federal colleagues, not itself, as responsible for mitigation” said North Queensland Conservation Council (NQCC) Coordinator Wendy Tubman, who was present at the meetings with the Minister for the Environment, senior bureaucrats and ministerial staff.

Ms Tubman pointed to State government of the massive expansion of the coal industry and its wind-back of vegetation protection legislation as examples of how the State is exacerbating the problem of climate change.

“To make things worse, NQCC has since been told that the state government currently has no budget for projects aimed at adapting to the impacts of climate change.

“This is sickeningly irresponsible behaviour. We are facing the greatest ever threat to our planet and our people but our governments are playing a petty and juvenile game of passing the buck that allows the problem to worsen daily.

“The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection’s website tells us that we are facing increased droughts, coastal inundation, more intense cyclones, more days over 40°C and increased rain events, and, instead of helping to tackle the cause, the Department is treating the symptoms while exacerbating the problem. If I had a doctor who took that approach, I would sue.”

CONTACT: Wendy Tubman 0428 987 535