



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

No basis for dangerous environmental MOU (Monday 21 October 2013)

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed last week by the Federal and State Ministers for the Environment is based on faulty reasoning, and is likely to see further damage to Queensland's environment according to North Queensland Conservation Council (NQCC) Coordinator Wendy Tubman.

"This push to 'streamline' regulation in order to 'speed up approvals' is based on the assumption that there are unnecessary delays in the system. However, when the Productivity Commission looked at this issue they failed to examine adequately claims by business of delays. They also failed to question whether or not the resources required to assess major projects had kept pace with what they described as an increase in the number, size and complexity of projects being proposed. Plainly they haven't. We have seen nothing but staff cuts.

"And handing environmental protection to a government 'in the coal business', as Premier Newman has claimed, is the old fox in charge of the henhouse approach.

"Under this agreement, the Federal government has abdicated from its responsibility and has handed power to a State system in which decisions about major projects are made within the Department of State Development by the Coordinator-General, whose job it is to foster development. Within the State process, the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection has been effectively sidelined.

"Changing the system can be done by the press of a button; repairing damage to the environment, including our farmland, air, water, endemic species and international heritage can take decades or centuries, and is sometimes just not possible.

"NQCC calls on thinking people to contact their representatives and demand this MOU be torn up."

Contact: Wendy Tubman 0478 987 535