



114 Boundary Street
Railway Estate, Townsville
PO Box 364, Townsville
Qld, 4810
Ph: 61 07 47716226
Mob: 0428 987 535
office@nqcc.org.au
www.nqcc.org.au
ABN: 55 903 033 286

MEDIA RELEASE

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Palaszczuk must investigate QLD State Development Department's close relationship with Adani

Following the release of secret documents showing that the QLD Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning worked to shore up public investment in Indian miner Adani's Carmichael projects, ignoring concerns about their economic viability and excluding Treasury and Prime Minister and Cabinet, North Queensland Conservation Council is calling on Premier Palaszczuk to conduct a full and proper investigation into the Department and its relationship with the Indian company (['Adani's mine unbankable says QLD Treasury'](#), Fairfax, 30 June 2015 and [Adani Mining: Senior Queensland bureaucrats frozen out of government's Galilee Basin deal](#), ABC, 1 July 2015).

The FOI documents and a background brief are available on request.

Jeremy Tager, spokesperson for North Queensland Conservation Council, said, "Premier Palaszczuk must heed the warning bells rung by Queensland Treasury about Adani's financial health and urgently order both a due diligence assessment of Adani's capacity to undertake this development and an investigation into why the Department of State Development has been so willing to risk almost half a billion dollars of public money on a project that Treasury views as a dud.

"It appears the Department of State Development went rogue, ignored Treasury's calls for proper due diligence and actively excluded Treasury and Prime Minister and Cabinet from critical information, while arranging for taxpayers' money to be invested in Adani projects.

"These secret documents throw the spotlight on the role of Mr David Edwards, who was the Director-General of the Department of State Development under the Newman government and to-date retains this position under Palaszczuk.

"Who knows why the Department of State Development is so keen to back Adani, but the public needs action from the current Premier to ensure that this Indian company, with its shaky financial standing, will no longer wield the same influence over her government.

"Last week's call by the Department of State Development for tenders for dredging work at Abbot Point before approvals or even assessment has taken place unfortunately suggests that little has change in the Department of State Development.

“These new revelations also underline why the Premier needs to intervene in this project and ensure that no public money is spent on Adani’s projects and no work is allowed to proceed until a full and proper due diligence has been done.

“The Carmichael project is proving to be a headache for Premier Palaszczuk. At the end of the day the government should turn its back on this dog, before it begins to stink even more,” Mr Tager said.

Primary contact: Jeremy Tager NQCC 0400 376 974

Secondary contact: Wendy Tubman NQCC 0428 987 535