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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Court ruling reveals systemic assessment problems**

Today's historic ruling by the Federal Court of Australia overturning Federal Environment Minister Hunt's approval of the Carmichael Mine in the Galilee Basin reveals how flawed the approvals process has become, said North Queensland Conservation Council Coordinator Wendy Tubman.

'Despite Minister Hunt claiming rigorous assessment and tough conditions, the decision made by the Court shows how crucial evidence was not considered.

This is not a 'once off', said Ms Tubman. 'We see over and over again a process whereby project assessments, paid for by the proponent, cut corners, misinterpret data and overinflate purported benefits.

'The Australian people can no longer have any faith in the objectivity or integrity of this process and decisions that arise therefrom.

'This government has made no secret of the fact that they are invariably on the side of a damaging and dying coal industry. They are wilfully ignoring the evidence and are blind to the impacts of mining on the environment.

During the Carmichael Land Court case, Adani expert witnesses were forced to acknowledge that benefits to Australia in terms of jobs and royalties had been wildly exaggerated.

They also acknowledged major weaknesses in their assessment of the impact of the proposed mega-mine on groundwater.

'Australians from all walks of life are seriously questioning why such a project would go ahead as the coal industry appears to be in terminal decline, with coal prices remaining at very low levels, and the world shifting rapidly to renewable energy sources as a way of avoiding catastrophic climate change' Ms Tubman said.

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