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MEDIA RELEASE

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Time to invest in new, sustainable projects

The idea of using taxpayers' money to build a railway from Adani's Abbot Point export terminal to its proposed Carmichael coalmine in the Galilee Basin is irresponsible, according to North Queensland Conservation Council.

'The project, which is struggling to gain support as the fossil fuel industry goes into terminal decline, would bring little to the people of Queensland', said NQCC Coordinator Wendy Tubman.

'We know that global demand for coal is diminishing rapidly; we know that the Carmichael mine would create few local jobs and that the Adani management is working hard to decrease that number by automating the project from pit to port; and we know that royalties from the coal industry are little more than the revenue from motor vehicle registrations in Queensland.

'There would be little in this for the people and communities of Queensland.

'And, in the circumstances, what is the likelihood of any loan to Adani for the building of the rail line being repaid?

'When the coal mining industry collapses, what will be the use of a 400 km rail line from Abbot Point to the middle of Queensland?

There are so many exciting new, clean, sustainable projects offering thousands of great jobs that Australia could be investing in for the future. Projects that limit rather than add to climate change. Projects that do not have dire health consequences. And projects that do not require dredging in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and thousands more ships traversing the Reef.

The new Prime Minister and his 'agile' government is promising an Australia that embraces these new projects and industries. Continuing commitment to the old Abbott coal mantra will not cut it', Ms Tubman said.

'Let's use our taxes to move into an exciting sustainable future, not to provide CPR to a dirty and dying industry.'

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