

7 June 2018

MEDIA RELEASE

NQCC says Trad using weasel words on Adani road upgrade

Townsville, North Queensland. North Queensland Conservation Council (NQCC) says Queensland Government Ministers have used weasel words to avoid ruling out spending public funds on Adani's access road, and calls on Treasurer Trad to make an unequivocal commitment to not fund Adani road upgrades, in line with recommendations of the Queensland Coordinator General.

NQCC Campaigns Manager **Tarquin Moon** says, "Treasurer Trad said yesterday "*public funds will only be used for the road if it can be shown benefits to the local community outweigh any helping hand to Adani.*" The Treasurer is using residents as cover to avoid ruling out an upgrade for Adani's access road."

"If the Queensland government funds Adani's access road to a tune of \$100 million, they will be giving Adani more than four times the amount allocated to the Cyclone Debbie recovery fund.

"We hear the message loud and clear that Australians don't want their hard earned dollars being spent on mining companies.

"Queenslanders want their taxpayer dollars spent on a long-term future for our region, such as schools, education, renewable energy, the Great Barrier Reef and employment training, not on funding for an overseas mining billionaire."

"The Palaszczuk government did the right thing and vetoed Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility's (NAIF) \$1 billion loan to Adani's proposed coal mine last year. Now we ask the Premier to rule out upgrading Adani's access road, not offer cuts in mining royalties and to cancel licenses that gives Adani unlimited access to groundwater for 60 years."

Adani's mine is one of 9 proposed mines in the Galilee basin and will have impacts on North Queensland's water resources. The Adani mine is estimated to extract at least 270 billion litres of groundwater. This will cause a drop to the groundwater levels and could cause the Doongmabulla Springs to permanently dry up. These springs are dependent on groundwater levels and are an important refuge for wildlife, especially in times of drought.

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NQCC is the voice for the environment in North Queensland, campaigning as the peak non-government environmental organisation in our region since 1974. We protect the environment through advocacy and education, promote the values of the natural environment, and engage with policy and planning processes to advocate ecologically sustainable development.