



19 October 2016

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The Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk MP
Premier of Queensland
PO Box 15185
City East
Queensland 4002

cc: Deputy Premier Jackie Trad; Minister Lynham; Minister Miles; Minister Bailey

Dear Premier

We, the undersigned concerned groups and individuals, wish to express our dismay at hearing, via the media, that your government has chosen to fast track components of the Adani Combined Project (comprising the Carmichael Coal Mine and Rail Project, the North Galilee Basin Rail Project and the North Galilee Water Scheme Project) by declaring them 'critical infrastructure'.

At a time when the world is focusing its attention on how to implement the carbon emissions reduction targets agreed to at the 2015 Paris (COP21) Climate meeting, and governments in Australia are also planning to adjust their economies and energy sources to a post-carbon future, it is hard to fathom why Queensland would now seek to actively facilitate old-economy fossil fuels projects such as the Adani proposed Carmichael coal mine.

We believe that the actions of Mines Minister Dr Anthony Lynham, in going beyond an official 'assistance-neutral' stance to one which quite deliberately seeks to fast-track the Adani project, is reckless and indefensible. The claims (since repudiated in court by Adani's own expert) that the project will lead to thousands of jobs and a large revenue stream need to be treated with scepticism and placed into context of the consequences of coal mining and its alternatives. We call upon the Minister to get his priorities right and support genuine climate change action in this State.

Early this year the Great Barrier Reef suffered its worst coral bleaching event on record, with nearly a quarter of the corals dying due to extreme heat stress. Climate and coral reef scientists were united in their response: that this unprecedented catastrophe was caused by an El Nino event supercharged by global warming, that the Reef's future is in grave danger from increased sea temperatures and ocean acidification and that we must urgently transition away from coal to renewable energy.

Leading health campaigner Professor Fiona Stanley has said she is already measuring the health impacts of global warming: “Our children top the list of those most likely to suffer from climate change. Their future, their health must be our number one priority. We are doing too little, too late. As a society we need to step up.”

Paul Barratt, a former Secretary of the Departments of Defence and Primary Industries and Energy, and a former CEO of the Business Council of Australia, has said: “Just as we have faced fire, flood, drought and military threat in the past we now need to throw everything we can at the climate crisis. We must make action on global warming the nation’s highest-level priority.”

Ian Dunlop, a former Chair of the Australian Coal Association and former CEO of the Australian Institute of Company Directors has said: “Emergency action is a call increasingly being taken up by leading scientists and responsible leaders around the world as extreme events escalate.”

In a rapidly de-carbonising world, coal’s future should be regarded as all but over. Massive taxpayer support for a mega coal mine will cost Queenslanders and others dearly. Coal mining is not the only option for new employment generation in the central Queensland region, and there are many, far more sustainable alternatives. Just in the area of energy generation alone, as the government itself recognises Queensland ought to be a leader in renewable power development, investment and production. This is a cleaner, safer and more appropriate industry for Queensland workers, the Queensland community, and for the world.

We urge the Queensland Government to get its priorities right, focus on genuine climate change action and create thousands of new, long term jobs by prioritising the rapid development of renewable energy as the ‘critical infrastructure’ most pertinent to the future needs of this State. In the meantime, we seek an explanation for your government providing direct assistance to the Adani Combined Project via the critical infrastructure declaration.

Yours sincerely



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Co-signed by the following organisations and individuals:



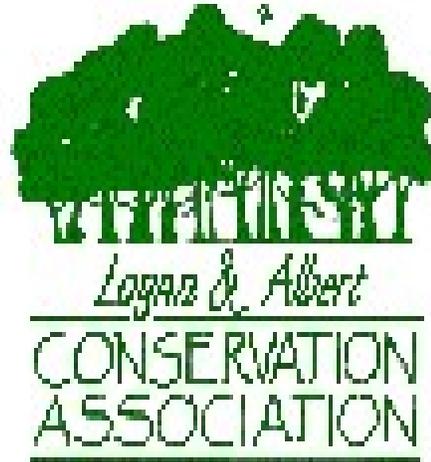
Des Boyland

Policies and Campaigns Manager



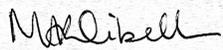
Barry Fitzpatrick

Logan and Albert Conservation Association (LACA)



Graeme Kelleher AO, former Chair of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and Ocean Elder

**Mr Paul Stephenson
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**MACKAY
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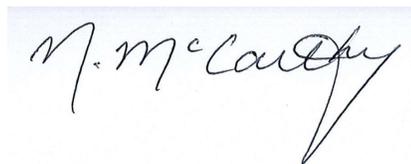
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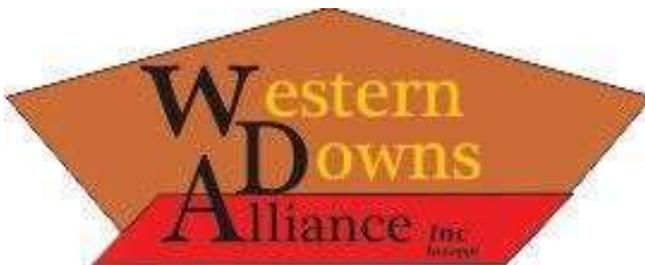
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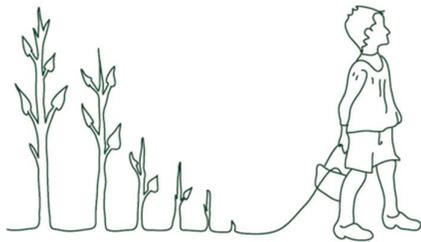


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ENERGETIC COMMUNITIES
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