

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing this submission in support of the Mineral Resources (Galilee Basin) Amendment Bill 2018.

If we are to have any hope of stopping catastrophic climate change and saving our precious Great Barrier Reef, we need to do everything we can to meet our commitments to limit global warming to below 1.5 degrees.

I support the Bill's intent to terminate existing coal mining leases in the Galilee Basin, and prohibit grant of new coal mining leases for land in the Galilee Basin. In addition, I believe it should be amended to prevent all new thermal coal and gas projects in Queensland to ensure we are doing all that we can to reduce the risks of dangerous climate change.

The risks of climate change are increasingly apparent with the CSIRO finding that in the east coast:

- Average temperatures will continue to increase in all seasons (very high confidence)
- More hot days and warm spells are projected with very high confidence. Fewer frosts are projected with high confidence.
- Increased intensity of extreme rainfall events is projected, with high confidence.
- Mean sea level will continue to rise and height of extreme sea-level events will also increase (very high confidence).
- A harsher fire-weather climate in the future.(1)

The Climate Council's 'Unburnable Carbon' report found that "If all of Australia's coal resources were burned, it would consume two-thirds of the global carbon budget based on a 75% chance of meeting the 2°C warming limit. For Australia to play its role in preventing a 2°C rise in temperature requires over 90% of Australia's coal reserves to be left in the ground, unburned. Similarly, the development of new coal mines, particularly the Galilee Basin, is incompatible with tackling climate change. Instead, if developed, they could well become stranded assets in a world that is rapidly cutting carbon emissions.(2)

The JOINT REPORT to the Land Court of Queensland on "Climate Change – Emissions"(3) during Adani Mining Pty Ltd (Adani) v Land Services of Coast and Country Inc & Ors, found, in regards to climate change that "Approaching 2°C warming there will be significant impacts in Queensland, Australia and globally, including:

a. In Queensland:

- i. a decline in environmental values including the Great Barrier Reef
- ii. increased flooding, erosion and damage in coastal areas due to increased numbers of severe tropical cyclones and sea level rise

- iii. significant increase in heat-related deaths and diseases
 - iv. reduced water availability and increased frequency of droughts, affecting agricultural production
 - v. coastal erosion due to sea level rise, projected to be about 40cm higher than today by the late 21st century.
- b. In Australia
- i. more frequent heat waves
 - ii. more frequent and/or more intense droughts "

Specifically, in regards to new thermal coal basins such as the galilee, the expert report found "Exploitation of the current proven reserves of coal could result in emissions of approximately 4,000 to 7,000 gigatonnes of CO₂ which would vastly exceed 2°C warming, unless carbon capture and storage becomes viable.(3)

Lastly, I urge you to consider the civil consequences of this bill. Members of the QLD community have variously pledged to "participate in dignified, peaceful civil disobedience to protect the climate, Reef and everyone's future by stopping the construction of Adani's coal project in Queensland. It's time to show our leaders that we won't let the fossil fuel industry trample anyone's rights, safety or future."(4) as well as participate in "Civil resistance.. that doesn't take no for an answer. Sustained and disruptive actions (that) escalate into local and nationwide movements that overcome oppressive governments, corporations and institutions."(5) The unprecedented scale of these campaigns indicate that attempted mining of the Galilee Basin coal reserves will be unequivocally met with civil resistance from QLD citizens. By passing this bill the motivation for civil disobedience is lessened and therefore needless conflict avoided.

Therefore I support this bill's intent on the merits of:

- a) the need to reverse global warming
- b) the need to limit new fossil fuel expansion to zero as fast as possible
- c) the significant effects galilee basin coal will have on global and local coal production and CO₂ production
- d)out of concern for a civil and habitable society.

Thank you for your consideration of my submission. Feel free to contact me should you have any further queries.

Nicholas Wixted.

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(1)https://www.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au/media/ccia/2.1.6/cms_page_media/176/EAST_COAST_BROCHURE.pdf

(2)UNBURNABLE CARBON: WHY WE NEED

TO LEAVE FOSSIL FUELS IN THE GROUND

<http://www.climatecouncil.org.au/uploads/a904b54ce67740c4b4ee2753134154b0.pdf>

(3)<http://envlaw.com.au/wp-content/uploads/carmichael14.pdf>

(4) <https://qld.frontlineaction.org/take-the-pledge>

(5)<https://www.facebook.com/GalileeBlockade/>