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1 February 2019

Committee Secretary
State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural
Industry Development Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE, QLD 4000

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Dear Committee Secretary

RE: Inquiry into the Mineral Resources (Galilee Basin) Amendment Bill 2018

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this response to the Mineral Resources (Galilee Basin) Amendment Bill 2018, which has been referred to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee for examination.

Whitsunday Regional Council opposes the proposed Bill and its objective to prohibit mining in the Galilee Basin. It supports responsible, planned development within the resources industry.

In 2017 Whitsunday Regional Council put on public record its support for the \$21 billion Carmichael Coal Mine, Rail and Port Project, with the mine to be located in the Galilee Basin, passing the following resolution unanimously at its 22 March Ordinary Meeting:

That Council supports the State government approved Carmichael Coal Mine, Rail and Port Project.

We are custodians for the Whitsunday Region with its unique economic and geographic diversity and we are actively engaging in innovation and renewable energy projects. However, we also need to maintain a balanced and pragmatic view by supporting regional projects in the here and now which can create jobs for those living in our region and lift the economy across the board.

Our community is doing it tough. Council has been actively advocating for the jobs and business opportunities for our residents that can arise out of this project.

However, the opening up of the Galilee Basin is about more than just one project. It is about responsible planning to ensure the vast, untapped mineral resources in the Galilee Basin are sustainably managed for the benefit of future generations. Sustainable management can be achieved through legislative, regulatory and prescribed



conditions being attached to each project, and monitored by federal and state governments.

The Whitsunday Region's resource industry has been in operation since 1919 and has a sustainable future outlook with planned continuation for existing mines and establishment of new ones. Mining is a major contributor to the region's economy consisting of coal mines in and around Collinsville, a mineral mine at Mt Carlton and coal port facilities at Abbot Point, north of Bowen. New resource developments within the Galilee Basin and future development within the Bowen Basin, together with extensions to the rail supply chain provide further economic growth opportunities and stimulus for the Whitsundays.

Finally, Council notes the objective of the Mineral Resources (Galilee Basin) Amendment Bill 2018 is to "contribute to Australia's commitments to pursue efforts to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels by 2100 by preventing any coal mining in the Galilee Basin". The proposed Bill will not have an impact on the demand for thermal coal. Instead, it could result in inferior grade coal with increased emissions being sourced from other countries, with less stringent environmental standards applied than those on Australian mining operations.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to have input into this inquiry, and we look forward to hearing the outcome. If you wish clarification to any of the above or other matters, please don't hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Davidson', is written over a circular blue stamp or seal.

Bruce Davidson
Acting Chief Executive Officer