Open Letter against Adani's water plan from Queensland Farmers

From Finch Hatton to Bli Bli, Longreach to Innisfal, our farmers and graziers are spread across Queensland and its many agricultural industries - beef, sheep, horticulture, dairying and more.

Signed by

JENNY TODD, BARCALDINE BRUCE CURRIE, JERICHO. SIMON GEDDA, MARLBOROUGH. ANGUS & KAREN EMMOTT, LONGREACH. DAWN HAUGHTON-WYATT, MURGON. JODY BROWN, LONGREACH. MICK ALEXANDER, GARNANT. DAVID CUSACK, GIN GIN. KYLIE BURTON, BARCALDINE. KAREN JARLING, GLASTONBURY.

SID PLANT, OAKEY ALAN JAMISON, BURNCLUITH. ROB ATKINSON, GOGMERI. MICHELLE HURCUM, AMBROSE NOEL PREECE, UPPER BARRON. GEORGE STAMATIS, ELIMBAH LISA MANNING, TARONG.

LOU DENEL, TALGA JOHN WILLIAMS, INNISFAIL. GREGIE DENNIS, SCENIC RIM. COLLEEN HORTON, CLIETON. FRANK HODGKINSON, NEUMGNA. REBECCA CROSS, WENGENVILLE.

GLEN HONOR, YANDINA. DEB MCLUCAS, DYSART STEWART SEESINK, BUNDABERG. URSULA AND GARY SALISBURY, KANIGAN. KELLY AND BEN MCDONALD, SPRINGSURE. DAVID HUNT, MARYBOROUGH WILLIAM GRAHAM, WILLOW MELISSA BARNETT, HALY CREE DONNA JONES, RICHMOND.

Dear Ministers Price and Enoch,

We are Queensland farmers and graziers and we're calling on you to protect our livelihoods.

Water is the lifeblood of our regions. Without it, agriculture and our way of life will disappear. Yet governments are failing to protect it.

Right now, Adani's proposal for a "groundwater dependent ecosystem management plan" in the Galilee Basin risks setting a dangerous precedent for farmers and graziers across Queensland. As Environment Ministers, their proposal goes to you for consideration.

But approving this plan in light of the evidence below would be telling mining companies that no matter how devastating the potential risks projects pose to our water, they'll receive the green light anyway.

Please consider:

1. The Federal Government's own Bioregional Assessment research into the cumulative impacts of proposed mines for the Galilee region found a more than 95% chance of changing water flows in the local river basin (and this was despite only having data to numerically model 7 of the 17 proposed coal and coal seam gas projects);

- 2. Scientists are concerned Adani's Carmichael mine could permanently dry up local springs in the area;
- 3. Australia's peak scientific body, the CSIRO, said that Adani's "Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Management" plan uses unverified data.

Approving Adani's groundwater plan in light of this research would set a dangerous precedent for farmers facing other developments across Queensland.

Without bores and access to water, we can't farm. We have to protect them. It's that simple.

We're asking you to reject Adani's Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Management plan, and expedite thorough on-ground research into the true potential risks of thermal coal and gas mining on local water systems across Queensland.

Climate change already is leading to longer, more severe droughts and unprecedented heatwaves. The last thing we need are new mines messing around with water, the lifeblood of our industry.

Please Ministers Price and Enoch, Stand up for Queensland Farmers.

