



Office of the
Premier of Queensland
Minister for the Arts

For reply please quote: ENV/AB - TR/16/7910 - DOC/16/94887

28 JUL 2016

Associate Professor Geoffrey Wescott

President

Australian Coastal Society Ltd

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Dear Associate Professor

Thank you for your letter of 10 June 2016 raising concerns about the granting of Carmichael Coal Mining Leases to Adani Mining Pty Ltd. I have been requested to reply to you on behalf of the Premier.

The Queensland Government has ensured that Adani's Carmichael Coal Mine is subject to a thorough environmental assessment and approval process. A detailed Environmental Impact Statement was prepared and rigorous conditions applied to all approvals.

The studies demonstrated clearly that the mine has no direct impact on the Great Barrier Reef due to its significant distance from the coast. To manage port related impact, the Queensland Government has banned dumping of port-related capital dredging material in the World Heritage Area. The nationally-significant Caley Valley wetlands has also been protected from construction works for containment ponds. Unlike the former government's proposal for Abbot Point, dredge material is to be placed on vacant industrial land adjacent to the existing coal terminal. These commitments were welcomed by the World Heritage Committee of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

The Queensland Government acknowledges that to achieve net zero emissions, global use of thermal coal used in power generation must trend downwards over the longer term. While this transition is underway, current and emerging energy needs, including those of developing nations, will need to be met and a proportion of this will be derived from coal.

Queensland produces coals, both thermal and metallurgic, that are some of the highest quality in the world and not supplying these markets with Queensland coal would not result in decreased coal usage and global carbon emissions in the short term. These countries would simply source coal from elsewhere. Additionally, I note that under international carbon pollution reduction arrangements, emissions are accounted for in the country where the coal is used and are also dealt with in that country's carbon emissions plans.

The Queensland Government takes its commitments to the Great Barrier Reef very seriously. At the same time, it is keen to encourage the development of resource projects that satisfy Queensland's strict environmental standards and that are economically sustainable in their own right. With this vision, the Queensland Government looks forward to increased regional development, jobs growth and sensible environmental outcomes.

Thank you again for taking the time to write to the Premier on this matter. I trust the information provided has been helpful.

Yours sincerely



MARK BIDDULPH
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