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MEDIA RELEASE

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Australian Conservation Foundation's Carmichael Challenge Applauded

North Queensland Conservation Council (NQCC) applauds the Australian Conservation Foundation's challenge of the latest Federal approval of Adani's proposed Carmichael mine in the Galilee Basin.

'The fact that this long-established and respected national conservation body is prepared to openly confront the Federal government on this issue shows the breadth and depth of community concern' said NQCC Coordinator Wendy Tubman.

'Fewer and fewer members of the public accept the Federal and State governments push to expand the Australian coal industry, which is known to contribute enormously to climate change.

'The global community acknowledges the threats of climate change. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has been telling us since 2009 that the greatest threat to the Reef is climate change. Yet our governments avoid reality, carrying on as if we can have both an expanding coal mining industry and the Reef. The plain truth is, we can't' Ms Tubman said.

'And to people, including our political representatives, who claim that the public should not have access to the legal system to protect our environment, NQCC points to the legislation.

'Since 2005, Queensland has had the Vexatious Proceedings Act, designed to prevent unwarranted use of the Courts. To our knowledge, this Act has never been invoked in relation to any environmental challenge by any conservation organization. No challenge has been deemed by the Courts to be frivolous or unjustifiable.

The massive Carmichael mine has unprecedented potential to cause environmental harm to our land, our water, our Reef, our biodiversity and our lifestyle. It will provide few benefits. It is only right and proper that it be subject to the most rigorous of assessments.

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