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Conservationists Slam Palmer's Mining Plan

Nth Qld Conservation Council has labelled Clive Palmer's thermal coal mining project as "madness".

Palmer proposes to mine 1.4 billion tonnes of coal in the Galilee Basin, southwest of Mackay in central Queensland and include a 490km rail line Bowen's Abbot Pt coal port.

Gail Hamilton, president of NQCC, said that equates to another 4 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide released to our atmosphere. "Australia is already the highest emitter of greenhouse gases per capita, with 8 billion tonnes emitted each year. Australians have been working hard to reduce their carbon footprint. This additional load makes a mockery of all our efforts. It is an insane project"

NQCC is the peak environment body for NQ and has been campaigning for decades to increase awareness and reduce impact of global warming caused by burning of fossil fuels.

Ms Hamilton said, "this is not about jobs over environment. With an equivalent investment commitment in renewable energy generation, Nth Queensland can reap the rewards of green collar jobs. The Climate Institute has estimated that with all current and proposed clean energy projects, 26000 jobs will be generated Australia wide, most of them in regional areas."

Greens spokesperson Jenny Stirling said "this is sheer madness. We have no clean coal technology that will deliver clean power from coal and our world is choking from excess carbon. This is dinosaur technology, it will be redundant before it even operates. To reduce the rate of global warming, we need to stop emitting carbon, NOW, not finding new ways to pollute".

"We need our State MPs to fight for a solar thermal baseload power station for Townsville to ensure sustainable power for our region. "

In the last State election, the Greens proposed the construction of a 250MW solar power plants, in the Townsville region. This plants would generate energy to feed into the national power grid. The total cost of construction would be around \$4 billion, creating 2000 jobs in the construction phase and 400 permanent jobs in regions hit hard by the depressed resources sector. The projects would be supported jointly by state and federal government and the private sector.

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