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No coal-fired baseload power station for the north

‘Any plans for a coal-fired baseload power station for Townsville and northern Queensland will be fought tooth and nail’ said North Queensland Conservation Council Coordinator Wendy Tubman.

‘The budget announcement of cheap loans for ports, pipelines, power and water infrastructure rings alarm bells for anyone concerned about our environment’, Ms Tubman said.

‘The idea of expansion of the coal industry, more port facilities on the Barrier Reef coast and the development of Cape York for agriculture are ideas from the last century. They ignore what we now know about the impacts of coal on climate change and the impact of land-clearing and climate change on the Reef.

‘Climate change is costing individuals and governments more and more. We face increasing disaster recovery costs, mitigation expenses and rising insurance premiums. Yet, the Federal government budget has cut funding for climate-related issues while supporting development that will only make climate change worse’ Ms Tubman said.

‘We need governments that have the intelligence to recognise that ignoring the environment only damages the economy. We need leaders who recognise that there are alternatives to coal-fired power, alternatives that are ideally suited to our region.

‘And we need governments with the integrity to accept that jobs for the future do not lie with digging up and exporting resources or with clearing our native vegetation. There are thousands of potential jobs that do not damage the environment and which are sustainable.

‘Those are the jobs and the type of development that that people are asking for and which all governments should be supporting’, she said.

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