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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **NQCC JOINS OUTCRY AGAINST ALPHA MINE**

North Queensland Conservation Council today joined the massive outcry against the decision by Federal Environment Minister Tony Bourke to approve Gina Rinehart's Alpha Coal Project in the Galilee Basin.

'It is incomprehensible that a government that is 'on notice' from UNESCO that the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area is at risk of losing its world status and that is also making steps to limit climate change would do something that jeopardizes both', said NQCC coordinator Wendy Tubman.

'We know that the GBR has suffered massively as a result of coastal development and climate change. Climate change, driven by the burning of fossil fuels such as coal, means high sea temperatures and acidification of the water – both of which are detrimental to coral. Coral cover is now down to just 14% of what it was.

'We also know that, despite the hype, the reckless expansion of the coal industry has a negative impact on other industries. It is not only the loss of biodiversity and productive farming land. The high exchange rate makes it hard for other exporters to compete and hard for import competing industries as well. The high wages that the coal mining industry offers makes it hard for other industries to attract and retain workers. The mining industry pays low taxes and over 83% of its profits are exported to foreign shareholders.

'What we are doing is risking the life of the Great Barrier Reef for what is a small gain for a few during a resources 'bubble'.

Wendy Tubman  
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