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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **OK to be well-organised as long as you are not a conservationist**

The unprecedented attacks on conservationists surfacing in the reaction to the Carmichael mine legal case, sets a dangerous precedent for Australia, according to North Queensland Conservation Council Coordinator Wendy Tubman.

‘The mining industry and Environment Minister Hunt are furious that, because of a mistake made within the Department, any approval of the proposed mine has been delayed.

‘Instead of acknowledging that the mistake was in his own Department, the Minister, backed by a media campaign paid for by the resources industry, is trying to punish the people who identified the problem. He is shooting the messenger.

‘He appears particularly incensed that conservation groups are, in his words, ‘well-organised and highly funded’ Ms Tubman said.

‘Apparently it is OK to be organised and funded as long as you are not trying to protect the environment or uphold the laws of the land.

‘The Minerals Council of Australia is outraged that conservationists want to stop the coal industry getting any bigger.

‘Of course that’s what we want’ said Ms Tubman. With overwhelming evidence of the need and massive worldwide support for keeping coal in the ground in order to control climate change, why wouldn’t anyone want that?

‘A large majority of Australians want renewable rather than coal-fired energy. They understand that clean, sustainable jobs in their tens of thousands can be delivered by the renewable energy industry and they want a government that can lead a fair and just transition away from coal.’

In a blow to the government, the Federal Court has taken the unusual step of coming out publicly to make clear that it is up to the court not the industry or any parliamentarian to decide what challenges have sufficient merit to be heard in court.

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