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MEDIA RELEASE

NQCC links Queensland coal-mining to extreme weather

The link between the extreme weather Australia and the rest of the world is experiencing and climate change is widely recognised. Countless experts, governments around the world, including our own, and even the World Bank, that bastion of the market economy and promoter of Western-style development for third-world countries, openly acknowledge it.

We also know that the use of coal exported from Australia contributes greatly to total global greenhouse gas emissions, which are a major contributor to climate change, and thus to extreme weather events; yet the Australian government continues to not only support, but also subsidise coal mining and export.

It is argued that coal mining supports the Australian economy and jobs and offers developing countries the opportunity for lifestyles such as those we enjoy.

But the truth is that the coal mining boom in Australia has provided very 'fragile' jobs, damages other sectors by way of the 'two-speed economy' it creates, and destroys vast swathes of agricultural land and much biodiversity.

And in terms of developing countries, the World Bank has said: 'Climate change is expected to hit developing countries the hardest. Its effects—higher temperatures, changes in precipitation patterns, rising sea levels, and more frequent weather-related disasters—pose risks for agriculture, food, and water supplies. At stake are recent gains in the fight against poverty, hunger and disease, and the lives and livelihoods of billions of people in developing countries'.

North Queensland Conservation Council calls on all levels of government, industry and voters to talk seriously and urgently about how we can reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and, thereby, help to avoid the possibility of a four degree rise in average global temperatures by the end of this century.

Such a rise would not only see far worse heatwaves than those we are experiencing, but also worse fires, worse floods, worse droughts and the loss of the Great Barrier Reef. And the damage around the globe, for which we would have to take much responsibility, would be catastrophic.

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