

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday 18th May 2016

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Bleached coral cup for climate change inaction.

Voters and residents from the seat of Herbert who are concerned about Ewen Jones' alarming stance on climate change have awarded him the dishonourable Bleached Coral Cup, for outstanding inaction on climate change.

Maree Dibella coordinated the action today in Townsville.

"The reason why we are here today is to highlight how close the fossil fuel industry is to our politicians and to reveal how they are lining each other's pockets."

Fossil fuel companies have donated more than \$3.4 million to the Coalition since the last election, and have received \$7.7 billion back in subsidies.

"That's a return on investment of more than \$2000 taxpayers dollars in the form of industry subsidies per dollar donated to the major political parties. We think that's unacceptable and would rather see our tax dollars supporting renewable energy, schools, hospitals or other local projects rather than to continue to prop up the fossil fuel industry" says Ms Dibella

Wendy Tubman, the Greens candidate for Herbert has signed the pledge, but current MP Ewen Jones and Labor candidate haven't yet supported a ban on donations from the fossil fuel industry to political parties or calls to end taxpayer funded subsidies to the fossil fuel industry.

Today's event is part of a week of action organised by climate organisation 350.org, that will see communities turn out at the offices of their local politicians to call for politicians to end 'polluted politics' by ruling out donations from the fossil fuel industry.

350.org Australia Pollution Free Politics campaigner, Isaac Astill said now is the time to put pressure on our politicians.

"With an election underway, now is the time to shine a spotlight on the coal and gas industry donations buying the influence of our elected leaders," Mr Astill said.

"The time for fancy rhetoric is over. A plan for climate action that includes taking money from the fossil fuel industry, and dishing out billions in handouts to the big polluters, is not a plan at all. If politicians are serious about climate change, this cosy relationship must end."

"Some in politics have chosen to sit on the fence but when the impacts of climate change are already being felt so severely, inaction is no longer a choice. Communities are calling for more. It's time for our politicians to stand up and end polluted money."

Federal MPs up and down the Great Barrier Reef coastline were also presented with bleached coral cups to highlight the LNP's inaction on climate change:

Cairns -- Warren Entsch (LNP Federal member for Leichhardt)

Townsville -- Ewen Jones (LNP Federal Member for Herbert)

Mackay -- George Christensen (LNP Federal Member for Dawson)

Brisbane -- Jane Prentice (LNP Federal Member for Ryan. The ALP candidate Stephen Hegedus has signed the Pollution Free Politics) and Ross Vasta (LNP Member for Bonner)