



# WHITSUNDAY CONSERVATION COUNCIL

*Caring for the future is in our nature*

Email: [admin@whitsundayconservation.org.au](mailto:admin@whitsundayconservation.org.au)

[www.whitsundayconservation.org.au](http://www.whitsundayconservation.org.au)

Contact: Secretary 0407 207 441

24 September 2021

Dear Amanda Camm MP,

The Whitsunday Conservation Council is writing to you because we are very concerned about the news that Clive Palmer's Waratah Coal is proposing to build a new coal-fired power plant near the town of Alpha in the Galilee Basin. Our concerns are twofold.

First and foremost, given the accelerating impacts of global warming, this is certainly not the time or place to be building a new coal-fired power station.

The project overview written by Waratah Coal, stated that the plant would cost up to \$3.5bn, would produce electricity by 2024 at the earliest and would burn coal for 30 to 50 years. We need to be reducing our carbon emissions, not increasing them as this plant will do. Australia's energy sector must move to 100% renewable energy within the next decade.

Secondly, the proposal for a new coal fired power station is being pushed through an inadequate local government planning process.

This is clearly taking a back door to get this proposed coal fired power station through the approvals process. The permits have been submitted through an obscure and outdated planning process. Waratah Coal has applied under a 2006 local government planning scheme, which will be assessed and decided by the local government with some input by the Planning Department, but without any public notification, or appeal rights, or the needed fulsome environmental impact assessment.

There are clear powers and criteria under Queensland environment and development law which enable the government to refuse this project.

Queensland's Planning Minister, Steven Miles, has the power to call in this application and ensure that it is properly assessed and decided given the risks this project poses to key State interests.

We urge you to act at this critical time, to help prevent a toxic and outdated coal power station proposal getting in the way of the energy future Queenslanders want. If this isn't stopped, coal barons will profit at the expense of consumers, communities and our climate.

Sincerely,

Faye C. Chapman  
Secretary

*The Whitsunday Conservation Council acknowledges the Ngaro, Gia, Juru and Birri People,  
the Traditional Custodians of the land and seas upon which we meet to conduct our activities.  
We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.*

