

REJECT CENTRAL QUEENSLAND COAL MINE

The Whitsunday Conservation Council (WCC) is very concerned regarding the potential impacts on our Reef from the proposed Clive Palmer-owned Central Queensland Coal Mine (CQC).

Therefore, WCC strongly supports your proposal to refuse approval of the proposed, Clive Palmer-owned Central Queensland Coal mine (CQC).

For the past 40 years, the health of the Reef has been in a steady decline, primarily due to the impacts of poor water quality and, more recently, climate change. The proposed CQC project will only accelerate both these impacts.

The project, proposed 10km from the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, would have disastrous consequences for the Reef, precious marine habitats and the biodiverse marine life of the Broad Sound. Modelling has shown that sediments from the mine could reach and smother seagrass meadows in Clairview dugong sanctuary, and turtle nesting beaches at Avoid Island. Expert scientists appointed by the Federal government warned in early 2021 that they couldn't envisage any mitigation measures that could safeguard the nearby environment and the Reef. We support the rejection of this mine due to its impacts on the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

We also support the rejection of this project due to its impact on climate change and threatened species. The International Energy Agency said in its 'Net Zero by 2050' report that no new coal projects should be approved after 2021. Adding new coal projects in the middle of a climate crisis will further harm Australian communities impacted by bushfires, droughts, heatwaves, floods and storms, and will drive further coral bleaching events on the Great Barrier Reef. The World Heritage Committee has urged Australia to take accelerated action at all possible levels to address the threats from climate change and water pollution impacting the Reef.

This project would also harm threatened species such as koalas and greater gliders, both of which have been recently listed as endangered in Queensland. These species need protection from coal mining, and specifically, from the CQC project.

This project must be rejected.

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