

The Secretary

Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ms McDonald,

The Wide Bay Burnett Environment Council Inc (WBBEC) strongly supports the Galilee Basin (Coal Prohibition) Bill 2018, as introduced into the Australian Senate on 5 December 2018 by Senator Larissa Waters, Senator for Queensland.

WBBEC supports this bill as its objective is to contribute to Australia's commitments to pursue efforts to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels by 2100, by preventing any coal mining in the Galilee Basin. Furthermore, it is totally inconsistent of the Australian Government to be striving to meet its Paris Agreement greenhouse gas emissions targets on the one hand, while allowing major fossil fuel mining developments, such as those proposed for the Galilee Basin, on the other.

As well, some environmental assets such as the Doongmabulla Springs are at risk of being degraded and may not recover for several centuries, should coal mining occur in the Galilee Basin. (ref <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-03-21/adani-groundwater-plan-risks-permanent-damage-to-desert-springs/9569184>, ABC, Online 21 March 2018)

Also, it is highly likely that if coal mining in the Galilee Basin goes ahead, by 2030 these mines will have lost their social licence to operate as a result of the very obvious impacts of global warming by then. Early mine closures (Carmichael coal will be too polluting for use in India, which is already facing an air pollution crisis) will likely see greater remediation costs to taxpayer funds incurred than will be recovered through royalties and taxes in the few short years before the mines are closed. Closing mines in 2030 that should never have been approved in the first place will cause unnecessary social disruption for workers and local communities, long term impacts on the environment and financial losses for investors.

This submission has been approved by the WBBEC Executive Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely

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Mike Moller
Regional Engagement Co-ordinator
Wide Bay Burnett Environment Council Inc
P.O. Box 97

Maryborough QLD 4650

wbbec.wordpress.com