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27th July 2017

Senate Standing Committees on Economics
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senators,

I am deeply concerned with the governance and operation of the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF) and welcome the establishment of a Senate Inquiry.

Issues of main concern:

- With members of the NAIF directors having associations with the fossil fuel industry and large mining companies, I feel they would be biased towards helping mining companies such as Adani and not have the interests of Australians at heart. An assessment of potential conflicts of interest and consideration of these when decisions are made is of vital importance. Polls have shown that the majority of Australians are opposed to NAIF funding the Adani mine.
- Since the NAIF directors are likely to favor the coal industry due to their links with this industry, I am concerned that they will be unlikely to fully grasp the enormous degree of risk associated with funding Adani's proposed coal mine. The risk is multifaceted: risk of Adani not paying the loan back due to India not purchasing overseas coal after 2010; the risk of losing the Great Barrier Reef in all its glory; the risk of losing jobs in ecotourism and other industries that rely on the reef; the risk of catastrophic climate change contributed by the emissions generated when the coal is burnt.
- I also question the qualifications of the members to manage public infrastructure funds worth billions of dollars.
- Furthermore, the secrecy of the agency is worrying. The NAIF Board should be transparent in its decision making since public money is at stake. When information is requested under the Freedom of Information Act it needs to be provided.

Thank you kindly for giving us the opportunity to express our views. I wish you well with your inquiry.

Kindest regards,
Rebecca Blowfield