

Media Release

Prime Minister ignores community champion on public inquiry

A letter sent by a wide variety of stakeholders demanding a public inquiry* into the development of the Galilee Basin's carbon-heavy coal deposits and the industrialisation of a massive area of central Queensland sent to the Prime Minister and Environment Minister Hunt on the 25th of November has gone unanswered. We request that this urgent matter be dealt with immediately, considering the announcement for the go-ahead on this project is due to be announced any minute.

According to Patricia Julien, Coordinator of Mackay Conservation Council named Local Hero for the Greater Mackay area yesterday by Channel 7, 'This mega mine, along with several other mines slated for the region, will have a significant impact on the Desert Uplands bioregion, its regional groundwater, the Burdekin Catchment, the Great Barrier Reef, the world renowned Bimblebox Nature Refuge and our global climate.'

A public inquiry, which has never been carried out for the Galilee Basin, will address the serious concerns voiced by all sectors of our society.

*A public inquiry is a publicly open and transparent process carried out by independent experts appointed by the PM and relevant minister. In this case it will help the public to understand the piecemeal decisions made by government and the mining industry regarding the large scale industrialisation of the Galilee Basin. It will also help to show the extent of the impacts on our priceless reef, terrestrial flora and fauna, ground and surface water resources, as well as our social fabric.

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