

5.4. MOTION FOR THE 2018 LGAQ ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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DEPARTMENT	Governance

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves to approve the attached motion for submission to the 2018 LGAQ Conference.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Motions have been called for the 2018 LGAQ Annual Conference. The motion detailed in Attachment 1 has been submitted for consideration by Councillors.

The proposed motion is:

That the LGAQ make vigorous representations to the Queensland State Government urging it to immediately cease any considerations to supporting, financially or by any other means, and either directly or indirectly, the proposed Carmichael Coal Mining Project by Adani in the Galilee Basin.

BACKGROUND

The LGAQ Annual Conference provides an opportunity for Queensland councils to come together once a year to debate issues of importance to their local communities.

The debated motions also provides input into the LGAQ policy agenda and informs priorities for local government in the State.

COMMENT

The motion to be submitted to the LGAQ Annual Conference will seek support from the LGAQ to request the State Government to stop any further actions and considerations regarding the Carmichael Coal Mining Project by Adani in the Galilee Basin.

Council has discussed this matter previously when it determined a policy position to oppose any proposals for coal mining in the Galilee Basin at its meeting held 19 September 2017.

The submission to LGAQ aims to build further momentum and support for this very important issue.

In order for this motion in Attachment 1 to be submitted for consideration at the LGAQ Conference Council must first pass a resolution in support of the motion. It will then be submitted via the online portal by Friday 24th of August.

PROPOSAL

That Council approves the attached motion for submission to the 2018 LGAQ Annual Conference.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications for Council.

COUNCIL'S ROLE

Council can play a number of different roles in certain circumstances and it is important to be clear about which role is appropriate for a specific purpose or circumstance. The implementation of actions will be a collective effort and Council's involvement will vary from information only through to full responsibility for delivery.

The following areas outline where Council has a clear responsibility to act:

Advocate Supporting communities and groups by advocating for certain actions from other organisations (usually other levels of government)

CONSULTATION

Internal: Managers and other key staff, Councillors

External: LGAQ

ATTACHMENTS

1. Motion for the 2018 LGAQ Annual Conference **[5.4.1]**

No further Queensland Government Support either directly or indirectly for the Adani, Carmichael Coal Mine Project in the Galilee Basin

Submitting council / organisation Douglas Shire Council	
If this submission has been carried at a ROC/LGA, please indicate below FNQROC	
Title of motion	No Queensland Government support for the Adani Carmichael Coal Mine proposal
Category	Choose an item.
Council resolution #	That the Council submit a motion to the 2018 Annual Conference of the LGAQ viz: That the LGAQ make vigorous representations to the Queensland State Government urging it to immediately cease any considerations to supporting, financially or by any other means, and either directly or indirectly, the proposed Carmichael Coal Mining Project by Adani in the Galilee Basin.
Date of council resolution	
Motion	That the Local Government Association of Queensland make vigorous representations to the Queensland State Government urging it to immediately cease any considerations to supporting, financially or by any other means, and either directly or indirectly, the proposed Carmichael Coal Mining Project by Adani in the Galilee Basin.

Background

It is the Council's understanding that as recently as early June 2018 the State Government was considering covering the estimated \$100 million upfront costs of road access for Adani's Carmichael coal mine in the Galilee Basin.

Furthermore, the mine, once operational, will draw billions of litres of water from the Great Artesian Basin completely free of charge because, as the Council understands it, the Queensland Government has granted Adani unlimited water removal rights for 60 years, plus approval for a floodwater harvesting 10 gigitalitre dam.

The negative impacts of the Carmichael coal mine proposal are obvious and succinctly summarised in the following policy position determined by the Douglas Shire Council on 19 September 2017:

"The Douglas Shire Council opposes any proposals for coal mining in the Galilee Basin, in particular current proposals by the Adani Group.

The potentially significant negative economic impacts on the future wellbeing of the Great Barrier Reef caused by shipping, maintenance of port facilities and climate change from the burning fossil fuels is unacceptable. There is not only an environmental imperative to protect the Great Barrier Reef from the effects of continuing use of fossil fuels, particularly coal, but an economic one as well, especially for the Douglas Shire.

The Great Barrier Reef represents an estimated \$6.4 billion annually to the Australian economy, \$3.9 billion of which is attributed to the Queensland economy. The Reef supports 64,000 jobs nationally, the vast bulk of which are in Queensland. This makes the Reef a larger full-time "employer" than many of Australia's corporate giants, such as Qantas, Telstra and the National Australia Bank.

The Great Barrier Reef, together with the Daintree National Park, is the backbone of the Douglas Shire economy, representing 80% of economic activity within Douglas annually. In Douglas, there is extensive private investment and confidence in this billion-dollar vital industry, with new and expanded dive adventures and diversification in overall reef experiences. It is critical this is not put in jeopardy.

The following are unacceptable risks to the future wellbeing of the Great Barrier Reef and the resultant significant negative impacts on the Douglas Shire economy:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coal, a fossil fuel, when burned, represents a significant continuing contribution of CO₂ gas emissions into the atmosphere with the consequent effects of increased absorption of CO₂ into our oceans. This leads to increased ocean acidification and increased ocean temperatures. The Great Barrier Reef is under significant stress, in part as a consequence of increasing ocean acidification and increasing ocean temperatures that cause coral bleaching and eventual coral mortality. Further coal mining activity will only exacerbate these effects. • Significantly increased maritime activity within the Great Barrier Reef marine park as a consequence of shipping coal for export which is delivered to Abbot Point from the Galilee Basin will represent further potential threats to the wellbeing of the reef into the future due to the risks of vessels potentially colliding with the reef; • The requirement for dredging at Abbot Point Port facilities to accommodate coal, shipping vessels will present significant risks to the health of the Great Barrier Reef as a consequence of sediment stirred up by dredging activities;
<p>What is the desired outcome sought?</p>	<p>Immediate cessations of any further support from the Queensland State Government, financially or otherwise, and either directly or indirectly, for the Adani Carmichael Coal Mine proposal in the Galilee Basin.</p>