

10 August 2022

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Email: ec.sen@aph.gov.au

Re: Climate Change Bill 2022 and Climate Change (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2022

Dear Committee,

North Queensland Conservation Council Inc. (NQCC) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Climate Change Bill 2022 and the Climate Change (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2022.

NQCC is the voice for the environment in North Queensland, with a broad mandate to “protect the land, waters and atmosphere of the region”. Based in Townsville, on Wulgurukaba and Bindal Country, we know that efforts to limit global warming are crucial to protect not just our region’s ecosystems, but also our economy, health, safety, and lifestyle.

NQCC welcomes legislation to enshrine emissions reduction targets, but wish to bring the following recommendations to the Committee’s attention:

- A reduction in Australia’s net greenhouse gas emissions to 43% below 2005 levels by 2030 is not sufficient to meet Australia’s obligations to the Paris Agreement to limit global heating to 1.5 degrees Celsius. **This target must be ratcheted up quickly to meet our commitments.**
- For Australia to reach net zero emissions by 2050, **no new coal or gas projects can proceed.** This would also help to minimise future fugitive emissions from coal mining activity, which have been significantly under-reported. The best way to capture carbon is to keep it in the ground.
- Scope 3 emissions from Australia’s coal exports are not currently considered in the Climate Bill. As one of the world’s largest fossil fuel exporters, Australia is uniquely placed to have a significant impact on global greenhouse gas emissions. If our country is to meaningfully address climate change, **the emissions from our exports should be considered.** Whether our fossil fuels are burned domestically or overseas, we share one global atmosphere. **Australia must avoid and reduce Scope 3 emissions.**
- **The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act should contain a climate trigger**, to ensure that the impacts of any new coal and gas projects on climate change are assessed. Those projects which undermine legislated climate targets should not be approved.



North Queensland Conservation Council

... the voice for the environment in North Queensland

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Crystal Falknau', written in a cursive style.

Crystal Falknau – Coordinator
North Queensland Conservation Council