

18 August 2022

Hon Tanya Plibersek MP  
Minister for the Environment and Water

**Re: Central Queensland Coal Project (EPBC 2016/7851)**

Dear Ms Plibersek,

North Queensland Conservation Council (NQCC) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the decision around the approval of the Central Queensland Coal Project (EPBC 2016/7851).

NQCC is a not-for-profit conservation organisation, with a broad mandate to “protect the land, waters and atmosphere of the North Queensland region”. The Central Queensland Coal (CQC) Project would threaten that which we are mandated to protect, both directly and indirectly, hence **NQCC supports your proposal to refuse this project.**

The Queensland government EIS assessment, released in April 2021, said the CQC mine was not suitable to proceed on environmental grounds. The project would likely threaten a range of crucial habitats and breeding sites, as well as surface water and groundwater. Expert scientists appointed by the Federal government warned in early 2021 that they couldn't envisage any mitigation measures by CQC that could safeguard the nearby environment.

The project would also contribute significantly to global greenhouse gas emissions, with up to 10 million tonnes of coal proposed to be mined each year. Regardless of where this coal is burned, Australia's environment will be impacted by further heating of our oceans and atmosphere.

According to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, climate change is the greatest threat to the Great Barrier Reef. It is also the biggest threat to many other species and ecosystems throughout Australia, including the Mt Elliot Crayfish, which is endemic to North Queensland.

Our unique flora and fauna depend on global efforts to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius for their continued survival. The International Energy Agency has stated that the approval of new fossil fuel projects is not compatible with this goal.

**This project should be rejected due to its direct impacts on the local environment in Central Queensland and its indirect contributions to climate change, which threatens our Great Barrier Reef and Australia's unique biodiversity.**

Yours sincerely,



Crystal Falknau – Coordinator  
North Queensland Conservation Council