



Queensland Conservation Council welcomes the chance to comment on EPBC referral **2021/8999 TEC Coal King 2 East project.**

We are concerned about the local impacts on state forest and significant flora and fauna species, particularly the Spotted-Tail Quoll, Black Breasted Button Quail and *Cossina Australiana*.

We are also extremely concerned about the adverse impacts the proposed project will potentially cause to EPBC Act listed groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) and species. Along with potential impacts to listed GDEs and species, the proposed project will also potentially cause adverse impacts to adjacent property owners bores by the drawing down of regional aquifers resulting from mine dewatering activities. Due to these adverse impacts, it's essential that the proposed project's potential impacts to groundwater must be fully assessed.

Fundamentally, this project should not go ahead because of the dangerous climate change impacts of burning this coal for electricity generation in Tarong power stations. The IPCC's sixth Assessment Report released on 9 August outlined that Australia has already reached 1.4 degrees of warming. This has contributed, beyond doubt, to more severe flooding, drought and bushfires in Queensland. These impacts will get more severe and disruptive to Australian communities and ecosystems such as the Great Barrier Reef, for every additional increment of warming.

To avoid these impacts, we need to take rapid and effective action to cut carbon emissions. Even the International Energy Agency (IEA) has acknowledged that unabated coal power needs to be phased out by 2030. This coal mine extension will allow Tarong and Tarong North power stations to operate to 2037. Planning to operate these dirty, ageing coal fired power stations to 2037 is reckless and will cause even more dangerous climate change.

The climate impacts of coal mines, including extensions such as the K2E project, should be taken into account under the EPBC Act. We urge the Federal Government to end the dangerous delaying tactics seen in the debacle around setting a net zero target and implement a Climate Trigger in the EPBC Act. We further urge TEC Coal, Stanwell and the Queensland Government to act ahead of the Federal Government by considering the climate impacts of this project. Instead of extending the Meandu mine, Stanwell and the Queensland Government should develop a rapid plan to phase out coal fired power stations by 2030. A renewable energy transformation can support workers to access new opportunities in renewable manufacturing and industry, and avoid ever more dangerous climate change.

**Dave Copeman**  
Director  
Queensland Conservation Council

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QCC acknowledges that we meet and work on the land of the Jagera and Turrbal.

We wish to pay respect to all Elders — past, present and future — and acknowledge the important role all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people play in protecting, conserving and sustaining Queensland's environment.