



CATHOLIC JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE

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Media Statement

Adani Coal Mine Must Be Stopped

The Catholic Justice & Peace Commission of the Archdiocese of Brisbane calls on the Queensland and Federal Governments to withdraw their support for the development of the Adani Carmichael Coal Mine Project in Central Queensland.

While we recognise the importance of both Governments encouraging economic opportunities which create employment, the evidence suggests that the proposed mine will not make a significant contribution to employment and economic prosperity. It will also cost Queenslanders and other Australians a lot in various forms of Government subsidies.

Just as importantly, at a time when there is mounting evidence of enormous environmental damage caused by climate change, it is reckless for Governments to permit development of more fossil fuel projects, especially the Adani mine which would be one of the largest coal mines in the world.

We have many serious concerns about the Adani project:

- The development of the mine will result in serious damage to the lands and cultural and spiritual heritage of the Wangan and Jagalingou peoples on whose country the mine would be developed;
- The Climate Council estimates that the Adani mine will double Australia's carbon emissions and contribute to a further acceleration of an already deteriorating climate situation;
- Many of the islands of the Torres Strait and many countries in the Pacific and Indian Oceans in our region are already under serious threat because of climate change. They have urged Australia to reduce its carbon emissions quickly to help them to deal with this difficult situation.
- The evidence of enormous environmental damage due to climate change is overwhelming. The rapid decline of the Great Barrier Reef is one of the most alarming signs of the seriousness of our climate crisis. A recent report estimates that up to half of the Reef is dead;
- Scientific research indicates that the frequency and severity of extreme weather events such as cyclones and floods are increasing due to climate change.

Yet, with the determination of the Queensland and Federal Governments to proceed with the Adani mine, they appear to ignore all these warnings of a looming climate crisis threatening us and our planet and the pleas for strong and urgent Australian climate action by our sisters and brothers in Queensland and in our region.

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We reject the greed of mining companies which has no thought for the enormous environmental, social and cultural consequences of their plans. We oppose our Governments responding to the pressure of these greedy mining companies by promising to amend native title laws which make it easier for them to trample on the cultural rights of traditional owners, by offering them enormous loans to make their mining projects viable and by allowing them to mine and sell the minerals which we Australians own without paying royalties.

Two years ago, Pope Francis issued an important document on the environment, *Laudato Si'*. He encouraged all of us to care for our planet by responding to the environmental problems we face. Pope Francis is showing the way not only for Catholics, but for all the people of our common home, the earth when he tells us we need to phase out the use of fossil fuels quickly to avoid a worsening climate crisis.

The Adani coal mine does not stack up economically or environmentally. The Queensland and Australian Governments should not be helping the project with native title law amendments, billion dollar loans and royalties holidays. They should not ignore the Wangan and Jagalingou peoples, the peoples of the Torres Strait Islands and the peoples of the Pacific and Indian Oceans who have not caused the global climate crisis and who have much less capacity to deal with its impacts. They should not ignore the cries of the earth which has suffered enormous damage already and faces much worse.

We urge the Queensland and Australian Governments to reject the Adani coal mine project. Instead, we call on them to make a substantial investment in a renewable energy future and to make a concerted effort to encourage the development of economic opportunities which are both economically and environmentally viable and sustainable in the long term.

This statement is also endorsed by Catholic Earthcare Australia.



For further information or comments, please contact Peter Arndt on +61 409 265 476.