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**Exclusive** LNP senator warns minister over Adani delays

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**RENEE VIELLARIS**

**FIRE-UP** Federal LNP Senator James McGrath has sensationally warned Environment Minister Melissa Price that he will publicly call for her resignation if she fails to treat the Adani project fairly.

In terse and blunt correspondence, Senator McGrath told the embattled minister he would issue a press release calling for her ministerial scalp if Queensland jobs were thrown under the bus. The internal brawl about Adani is a likely factor in Scott Morrison's decision to delay calling an election as agitated Queenslanders demand a resolution to the issue. [REPORT PAGE 6](#)



# MPs put poll before coal

## Pressure on Minister to decide on Adani soon

**EXCLUSIVE**

**RENEE VIELLARIS**  
FEDERAL POLITICAL EDITOR

**FIRE-UP** Federal Senator James McGrath has sensationally warned Environment Minister Melissa Price that he will publicly call for her resignation if she fails to treat the Adani project fairly.

In terse and blunt correspondence, Senator McGrath told the embattled minister he would issue a press release calling for her ministerial scalp if Queensland jobs were thrown under the bus.

It comes as Barnaby Joyce “looked like he wanted to punch” Gold Coast MP Stuart

Robert in the House of Representatives on Thursday over back-and-forward comments about the Galilee Basin.

Sources said Mr Joyce was ropeable and believed Mr Robert’s southern Liberal mates were trying to stop mining jobs in central Queensland.

The internal brawl about Adani is a likely factor in Scott Morrison’s decision to delay calling an election as agitated Queenslanders demand a resolution to the issue.

The Environment Department has provided Ms Price with its report on Adani’s

groundwater management plan, but she has yet to agree.

There is a view Ms Price is deliberately delaying the project because many Victorians want to stop the project.

Red-hot anger spilt over during Budget week, with Senator McGrath, Resources Minister Matt Canavan and Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton seeking clarification. Ms Price’s office would not comment specifically on Senator McGrath’s correspondence.

Senator McGrath also refused to comment, although colleagues said they have never seen him so angry. Asked about the project yesterday, Treasurer Josh Frydenberg said he could not say if Adani would get the go-ahead before the election.

In Queensland, the black-throated finch could cause delays, however, many in the LNP want to fight an election on the fact Labor is standing in the way of Queensland jobs.

“The major approvals were already given some years ago with 180 rigorous environmental conditions attached, both state and federal, now it’s going through the process of

sub-approvals and the minister is following the normal statutory process,” Mr Frydenberg told ABC’s *Insiders* program yesterday.

“From our perspective, we support resources projects and we support them going through the EPBC (Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation) process.

“On the other side of politics, you’ve got (Labor’s) Tony Burke saying I’m not going to prejudge a decision, you’ve got Mark Butler saying it’s not in the national interest for Adani to go ahead and you’ve got

(Labor’s) Chris Bowen saying sovereign risk would be raised if it was cancelled. So Labor’s all a mess. What we will not do, is what Bill Shorten is saying, which is one message to the baristas of Batman and another to the miners of Mackay.”

Asked if it would be signed off by the election, Mr Frydenberg said: “That’s in the hands of the minister, who’s talking to the scientists.”

Ms Price does not have to make a decision on the department’s recommendation by a certain date. It means it can be deferred until the Government is in caretaker mode or until after the election.

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