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Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee

Via email: ec.sen@aph.gov.au

To whom it may concern

**Submission to the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
Inquiry into the *Environment and Infrastructure Legislation Amendment (Stop Adani) Bill 2017***

Queensland Conservation Council (QCC) is the peak conservation organisation in Queensland, with some 60 or so member groups across the state, each with their own significant membership bases. We are approaching our 50th anniversary of advocating for stronger conservation policy, law and practices, and have played a lead role in many critical campaigns to secure protection for Queensland's nature.

QCC also works directly with other state and national conservation groups, and a number of regional conservation bodies in Queensland which focus more intensely on local and regional environmental issues within their particular geographic scope. A number of our regional conservation councils and other members are deeply concerned about the landscape, species, and climate change impacts of the proposed Adani Carmichael coal mega-mine, concerns that are shared by QCC itself.

QCC supports the intent of the above Bill. We have doubts that even legislative provisions such as those in the Bill will enable current and future Ministers administering the *EPBC Act 1999* to have increased powers and capacity to apply greater scrutiny to the Adani mine development, will not guarantee that such powers and capacity are exercised. Clauses that require that a Minister "must have regard to" or "must consider" certain matters mean these matters should be factored into decisions, but do not automatically lead to any particular outcomes.

QCC does not have any further comments to make on the above Bill other than to state for the record that QCC that it opposes the opening up of any new coal mines in Australia, including the proposed Adani Carmichael mega-mine. In our view, new energy investment and infrastructure development should be directed to expanding renewable energy and its storage, and to ecologically sustainable and environmentally responsible activities. These are positions that have been stated repeatedly and clearly publicly.

Fundamentally, Australia requires a wholesale rewrite of federal environmental laws and reforms to associated institutions to ensure that natural and cultural environments are adequately protected from inappropriate development and from the scale and impacts of climate change.

Thank you once for the opportunity to comment. Please do not hesitate to contact me on or by email: tim.seelig@qldconservation.org.au should you wish to discuss any of the above or require clarification of any points.

Yours sincerely

Dr Tim Seelig
Coordinator
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