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Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600
By email: ec.sen@aph.gov.au

SUBMISSION: Galilee Basin (Coal Prohibition) Bill 2018

This submission is on behalf of Coffs Coast Climate Action Group to the inquiry by the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee into the **Galilee Basin (Coal Prohibition) Bill 2018**

Submission from: Coffs Coast Climate Action Group

Contact: Anthony Johnson

The Coffs Coast Climate Action Group (CAG) is an energetic and diverse community of local residents working as a collective to promote climate change awareness and action at the regional level and input into policy development at all levels of government. We formed in 2014, and have a very active membership and supporter base of over 2000 engaged local community members.

Recommendation

CCCAG strongly supports the intent of the **Galilee Basin (Coal Prohibition) Bill 2018** in its current form.

The Necessity for Immediate action to Mitigate Climate Change

IPCC Global Warming of 1.5C Report

In October 2018 the world's leading climate scientists, delivered a special report for the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). This report warned the global community of the urgency of the action necessary to avert worst effects of climate change. Their report states that there are only twelve years remaining for global warming to be kept to a maximum of 1.5C. To meet that target, global carbon emissions must drop by 45% by 2030.

The IPCC report underlines that the scale of the required low-carbon transition is unprecedented. This transition must be widespread and rapid and will need to be made across energy, land, industrial, urban and other systems.

It will involve leaving at least 80% of the world's reserves of fossil fuels, including well over 90% of coal reserves in the ground.

State of the Climate 2018 Report

The Australian Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO released their biennial State of the Climate Report in December 2018. This Report shows that Australia is experiencing more extreme heat, longer fire seasons, rising oceans and more marine heatwaves consistent with a changing climate.

The Report's key findings include that:

- Australia's fire seasons have lengthened and become more severe, with an increase in the number of extreme fire danger days in many parts of Australia;
- There has been a five-fold increase in extreme heat, consistent across day time temperatures, night time temperatures and monthly temperatures. Also the number of extreme heat days continues to trend upward;
- Oceans around Australia have warmed by 1C since 1910, and this is leading to longer and more frequent marine heatwaves resulting in coral bleaching and coral mortality and deleterious effects on other marine life;
- Sea levels around Australia have risen by more than 20cm since records began and the rate of sea level rise is accelerating;
- There has been a 30% increase in the acidity in Australia's oceans since the 1800s and the current rate of change is 10 times faster than at any time in the past 300 million years;
- There has been a shift to drier conditions in south-eastern Australia with a rainfall decrease of 11% and south-western Australia by 20-26% in the months from April to October.

Summary

In order to achieve the goal of keeping global warming to 1.5C and thus avoiding the potentially catastrophic effects of climate change from a business as usual approach, the global community must keep fossil fuels in the ground. Coal is the dirtiest and most polluting of the fossil fuels and the single largest contributor to global warming.

Climate change is an existential threat to the human race and a crisis for life on earth.

CCCAG believes that it is totally unacceptable for Australia to allow the opening up of a new coal precinct in the Galilee Basin in Queensland.

Consequently, CCCAG strongly supports the **Galilee Basin (Coal Prohibition) Bill 2018**.