



Dr Steven Miles
Deputy Premier
Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure
Email: deputy.premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au

22 November 2022

Dear Minister Miles,

Re: Waratah Coal's proposal to construct a new coal-fired station - Galilee Power Station

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Galilee Power Station **(the Project)** proposed to be constructed near Alpha in Central Queensland. We welcome that you called in this development and strongly urge you take this opportunity to refuse the Project.

By way of background, Environmental Advocacy in Central Queensland (EnvA-CQ) is Central Queensland association concerned about the risks associated with coal mining, coal seam gas and climate change.

EnvA believes that decisions to allow the opening new and expanding coal and gas projects:

- are contrary to meeting Australia's emission targets and Queensland's emission targets,
- are likely to result in irreparable damage to our local landscape and result in stranded assets,
- will put our local community at further risk of extreme weather such as increasing the intensity and frequency of storms, floods, droughts and bushfires,
- will damage our significant coastal resources including our beaches, wetlands and the Great Barrier Reef through storm surge and increased coral bleaching events,
- will further degrade wildlife habitats of state and national significance through both habitat loss and climate change,
- will place additional conservation pressure on threatened wildlife through heat related stress and from the more frequent and severe extreme weather events such as drought, fire, storms and floods, and
- rarely take into consideration the views of Traditional Owners and local communities who are concerned about protecting their land and from fossil fuel development and polluting facilities.

EnvA-CQ's concerns about this proposal relate to the disparity between Queensland's targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition to renewable energy. The proposed Project is completely contradictory to Queensland's carbon emissions reduction target and the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. It also poses unacceptable threats to ecosystems and Queenslanders' human rights.



Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan

The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan sets out a schedule to end reliance on coal fired electricity by 2035. Building a new coal fired power station now which would come online in 2030 will mean that the facility would only operate for a few years and hence does not provide secure employment for workers and the community. The significantly impact on the local environment and the additional emissions further accelerating the impacts of climate change cannot in anyway be determined to meet the triple bottom line test.

The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan also includes renewable energy targets of 70% by 2032 and 80% by 2035. Building a new coal fired power station now, when the Queensland goal is to transition to renewables is completely contrary to the Queensland government's plans and direction.

Our jobs and economic future are in clean energy manufacturing and exports. Projects like this serve only as a distraction from embracing the industries of the future. Approving this Project will provide a strong message that the Energy and Jobs Plan is not the direction Queensland is working towards and it is likely to have a concomitant negative impact on private investment in the renewable sector.

Emission reduction targets

Queensland currently has a 30% emissions reduction target by 2030 and Australia has a target of a 43% emission reduction. Australia has also signed up to the Paris Agreement to limit global temperature increases to 1.5 degrees. The science clearly identifies that the current Queensland and Australian target are insufficient to achieve a global warming to 1.5 degrees.

The figure provided at Attachment 1 identifies that energy production is the largest contributor greenhouse gas emissions in Queensland, followed by resource extraction. This Project will not assist in emission reductions, and it is inconsistent with meeting any stated emissions targets or in limiting global warming to manageable climate impacts.

These emissions will exacerbate climate change, creating irreversible impacts for our endangered species, precious ecosystems and World Heritage Areas.

We urge you to refuse this proposal and instead focus on building the renewable energy future for all Queenslanders.

Kind regards



Dr Coral Rowston

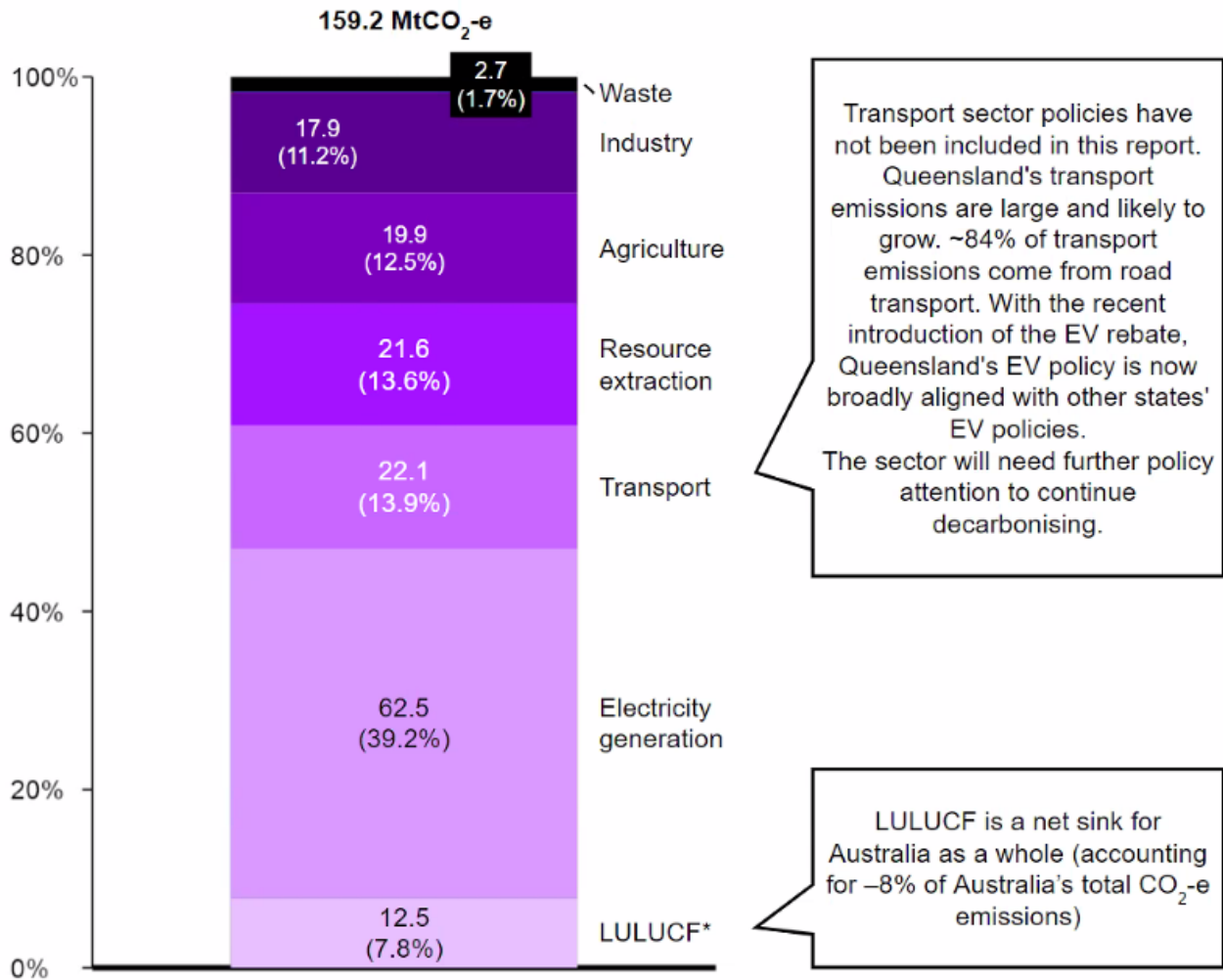
Director

Environmental Advocacy in Central Queensland

Attachment 1. Sector share of Queensland's emissions

Figure 2: Share of each sector in Queensland's emissions

2020, Mt CO₂-e and %



Note: *LULUCF is Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry
Source: Department of Industry, Science and Resources (2022), Accenture analysis



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