



Office of the Hon Scott Stewart MP
Minister for Resources

Ref CTS 03123/23

17 April 2023

1 William Street Brisbane
PO Box 15216 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3008 3500
Email Resources@ministerial.qld.gov.au
www.resources.qld.gov.au

Dr Coral Rowston
Director
Environmental Advocacy in Central Queensland

EnvA.CQ@outlook.com

Dear Dr Rowston

I refer to your letter dated 20 February 2023 to the Honourable Scott Stewart MP, Minister for Resources, concerning the Waratah Coal Galilee Coal Project. The Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf.

The Queensland Government works hard to ensure that our resources sector develops in a way that carefully considers the needs and rights of Queensland communities, other land users as well as the environment. Decisions relating to mining lease applications are subject to rigorous assessment processes. The government continues to support coal projects that stack up financially, environmentally and socially, and our position has not changed.

On 25 November 2022, President Kingham of the Land Court of Queensland handed down her recommendation that the application for a mining lease and the related environmental authority for the Galilee Coal Project be refused. Subsequently on 3 April 2023, the Department of Environment and Science refused the environmental authority application.

The Department of Resources will now finalise the assessment of the mining lease application for the Minister's consideration. The criteria that the Minister must consider in deciding a mining lease application are set out in section 271 of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* and includes the Land Court recommendation.

There is no statutory timeframe in which a Mining Lease must be decided, and the Minister intends to consider the significant amount of material relating to this project before making a decision.

If you have any questions, Ms Shannon Hart, Manager Assessment, Coal Assessment Hub, Department of Resources will be pleased to assist you and can be contacted on 4447 9296.

Yours sincerely

Paul Keene
Chief of Staff