
MEDIA RELEASE – 11 Feb 2014

Clive Palmer wriggles out of his Environmental Responsibilities again

Federal MP Clive Palmer's Waratah Coal Pty Ltd has filed an appeal against a Qld Government Environment Protection Order (EPO) issued in relation to its Galilee Coal Project which will destroy Bimblebox Nature Refuge.

During 2010-11 there were a large number of complaints from local landholders about Waratah's exploration activities affecting groundwater and bores. The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP) finally investigated in July 2012 and then formally asked the company to decommission exploration drill holes 'as a matter of urgency'.

The EPO was first issued by DEHP to Waratah in November 2013, and amended in December 2013. DEHP ordered Waratah to decommission all drill holes or convert them to water bores by 30 June 2014, and provide a series of reports. The first EPO report ordered, detailing all the drill holes, was due on 15 January 2014. It is not known if this information was provided.

The first of six decommissioning progress reports was due on 31 January 2014. On the same day, Waratah's filed an appeal application with the Planning and Environment Court. Judge Michael Rackemann ordered a stay on the EPO, until a 14 March appeal hearing. He ordered Waratah and DEHP to attend a meeting arranged by the court by 28 February 2014.

CCC Coordinator, Michael McCabe said, "Once again we are dismayed at Clive Palmer's legal antics. If Waratah Coal Pty Ltd cannot even comply with an Environmental Protection Order on bore holes, what hope do we have that he will ever carry out any government orders to protect the environment or the interests of neighbouring properties?" said.

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