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Unseemly Feeding Frenzy over coal announcement

Bowen Basin Coal mines have been developed incrementally over forty years by established companies such as BMA, Anglo, Rio Tinto, Xstrata, etc, and their predecessors to give the mature industry that is there today.

Since the \$69 billion announcement yesterday by Clive Palmer that he intends to build Australia's largest coal mine in the Galilee Basin in just three years, including a 500 km brand new railway and new port, there has been an absolute feeding frenzy by state and local politicians. Community leaders have been falling over themselves with enthusiasm for this scheme.

This might yet be a phantom project. CCC reminds those community leaders of all the billion dollar projects that have been proposed for Gladstone over the decades, and a few for Rockhampton, such as the Magnesium project at Stanwell where many local investors got burnt.

Anyone with a basic knowledge of project management knows that it takes a lot longer than the times suggested to get such an enormous project up and running.

Clive Palmer was stated in the newspaper yesterday as having \$6 billion in loans from China but also claims that it will be 100% Australian owned. Is he going to float on the Australian Stock Exchange?

The Galilee Basin where these major coal projects are planned is situated in the Desert Uplands Bio-Geographic Region, which contains a surprisingly high diversity of birds. "On the many visits to the area, I have been amazed at the bird populations in these Poplar box and Silver-Leaved Ironbark woodlands." said CCC Vice President Ian Herbert.

We caution community leaders, including business groups, to curb their unquestioning acceptance of everything that has been announced. We also ask the state government to start looking at more sustainable ways of supporting the economy than the inherently unsustainable pursuit of more mines to export our resources.