

CAPRICORN CONSERVATION COUNCIL



A voice for the environment

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15 December, 2009

Media Release

Queensland's heading off the rails with coal

Despite the current elevation of global warming to the world stage in Copenhagen, the Queensland Government shows no signs of slowing the number of coal mines and coal seam gas approvals in this state. Capricorn Conservation Council believes its approach is reckless and short sighted with an unbelievable number of mining companies falling over themselves to stake claims.

'In the month of November alone, 52 coal exploration permits were granted in Queensland with 17 of those being in Central Queensland,' says CCC spokesperson Janet Barrett. 'There are at least 15 new coal mines in our region in the advanced stages of planning. Make no mistake, many of those will be on prime agricultural land that produces food and fibre for our state, nation and the export market.'

The number of new coal mines coming online in Queensland could be about to skyrocket in 2010 - the Bligh government has called for a review of the approvals process and will consider recommendations from Queensland Resources Council to have coal mines fast-tracked.

The government cannot be ignorant of the substantial cumulative impacts of existing mines; case studies have been well documented. Mines have an impact on not only water resources, threatened species and land, but also the social cohesiveness of small communities like Blackwater, Springsure and Rolleston suffers.

CCC is adding its voice to this polarising issue in warning that only short term profits come from mining. 'The current situation is not sustainable because more and more land will be needed at the expense of agricultural production. If this business-as-usual approach to mining continues, our future food security will be under serious threat,' says Ms Barrett.

With the world's population increasing by about 100 million a year, CCC questions how 8 billion people in the year 2020 will be fed? Climate change will severely change the way food is produced

and the Queensland Government needs to get serious about meeting this challenge. The first step is simple and unequivocal - start saying 'NO' to coal exploration and all new mines!

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