Open Letter to

Mr Gautam Adani
Chair, Adani Group

Adani House, NR Mithakhali SIX Roads, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad, Gujarat 380009, India

16 March 2017

Dear Mr Adani,

We are writing to respectfully ask you to abandon the Adani Group’s proposal to dig the Carmichael coal mine in Queensland’s Galilee Basin.

We would like to put to you three reasons why this mine should never go ahead.

One, the Carmichael mine would be the biggest coal mine ever dug in Australia. Once its coal is burnt, it will contribute more climate-changing pollution to the atmosphere than the entire country of New Zealand does every year. Last year record-breaking ocean temperatures triggered a devastating coral bleaching event on the Great Barrier Reef – a natural wonder that visitors from every nation love. Sadly, another bleaching event is currently underway for an unprecedented second consecutive year. Pollution from burning coal is the single biggest driver of global warming, threatening life in Australia, India and all over the world.

Two, coal is a killer. Coal is the biggest single cause of air pollution in Australia. Air pollution kills an estimated 3 million people globally each year. Coal burning is a key contributor. Black lung disease has re-emerged in Queensland, afflicting 19 coal mine workers. Last month The Lancet, one of the world’s leading medical journals, published a report that described your company’s Carmichael mine proposal as a “public health disaster”.

Three, this mine proposal does not have wide public support in Australia and does not have the support of the Traditional Owners of the land where the mine would be dug. There are concerns about the impact the mine will have on groundwater resources and on nearby farmers who rely on this water for their livelihoods. Increasingly, Australians are deeply worried about how climate change is affecting our country through worse heatwaves, bushfires and reef bleaching. Australians know coal is driving global warming. And they definitely don’t want the publicly funded Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility to finance a railway line to service the Carmichael mine. A recent poll showed 75% of Australians would prefer the funding went towards renewable energy, not infrastructure for coal companies.
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True, the Queensland and federal governments are bending over backwards to fast-track this mine. True, they have changed water laws, stripped farmers of appeal rights, are attempting to change native title laws and have earmarked $1 billion of public money to build the rail line.

But we urge you to think about global warming and public health and listen to the wishes of the people.

It would be a great shame if this one project were to damage the image of India in Australia.

We understand the Adani Group has not made a final investment decision on the Carmichael coal mine. We strongly urge you to decide to abandon this project.

We the undersigned – and we believe all Australians – would support and welcome moves by your company to invest further in renewable energy in Australia.

Signatories

Geoffrey Cousins AM  Business and community leader
Dr Lindsay Simpson  Great Barrier Reef tourism operator
Bruce Currie  Queensland farmer
Imogen Zethoven AO  Australian Marine Conservation Society
Ian Chappell  Former Captain of the Australian Cricket Team
Greg Chappell  Former Captain of the Australian Cricket Team
Bob Brown  Former Australian Senator
Christine Milne  Former Australian Senator
Tim Winton  Award winning author
David Williamson AO  Playwright and screenwriter
Kristin Williamson  Author and journalist
Richard Flanagan  Award winning author
John Mullen  Business leader
Simon McKeon  2011 Australian of the Year
Indira Naidoo  Author and TV presenter
Ian Dunlop  Former Chair, Australian Coal Association
John Thwaites  Former Deputy Premier Victoria
Ken Peters Dodd  Birriah Widi Traditional Owner
Midnight Oil  Australian rock band
Peter Garrett AM  Musician, environmentalist and former politician
Rob Hirst  Musician
Naomi Klein  Author
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Ben Elton  Comedian and author
Aunty Carol Prior  Juru Traditional Owner
Mark Burrows  Investment banker
David Paradise  Paradise Investment Management Pty Ltd
Professor Tim Flannery  Councillor Climate Council and 2007 Australian of the Year
Geraldine Brooks AO  Pulitzer prize winning author
Missy Higgins  Australian singer, songwriter
Helen Garner  Writer
Renata Kaldor AO  Business and community leader
Robyn Nevin AM  Actress and Former CEO, Queensland Theatre Company, Sydney Theatre Company
Michael Dillon AM  Cinematographer and documentary maker
Robin de Crespigny  Author and filmmaker
Mark Joiner  Business leader
Robert Purves AM  Purves Environmental Fund
John Butler  Musician
Dr Anne Poelina  Nyikina Traditional Custodian
David Fisher  Producer, The Science Show ABCRN
Professor Carmen Lawrence  President, Conservation Council of Western Australia
Distinguished Professor  Terry Hughes FAA  Reef scientist
Keith Tuffley  CEO, The B Team
Dr Nigel Westlake  Composer
Edmund Capon  Former Director, Art Gallery of New South Wales
Bernard Fanning  Musician
Darleen Bungey  Writer
Professor Robert Costanza  Chair of Public Policy, Australian National University
Professor Fiona Stanley AC, FAA, FASSA  Distinguished Research Professor University of Western Australia, Vice-Chancellor’s Fellow University of Melbourne, 2003 Australian of the Year
Garry Shead  Artist
Virginia Duigan  Author and screenwriter
Sally Morrison  Biographer and fiction writer
Janet Laurence  Artist
Ben Quilty  Artist, activist, Trustee of Art Gallery of New South Wales and Honorary Doctorate Western Sydney University
Andrew Davies  Publisher and musician
Anne Manne  Writer
Peter Kingston  Artist
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Richard Walsh  Publisher and social commentator
Lea Ferris  Caring citizen
Ash Grunwald  Musician
Tim Hollo  Musician and CEO, Green Music Australia
Graeme Wood  Entrepreneur, philanthropist and environmentalist
Aunty Beryl Carmichael  Nyampa Elder and author
Arnold Zable  Author, novelist and human rights advocate
Professor Lesley Hughes  Councillor Climate Council
Andrew Stock  Councillor Climate Council
Professor David Karoly  IPCC Lead Author
Bill McKibben  Author and Co-founder, 350.org
May Boeve  Co-founder and Executive Director, 350.org
Koreti Tiurnalu  Pacific Coordinator, 350.org
Blair Palese  CEO, 350.org Australia
Dr Jonathan King OAA AA  Best-selling, award-winning author and historian
Ben Oquist  Executive Director, The Australia Institute
Joanna Weston  Australian athlete and environmentalist
Sheila Nguyen  Executive Director, Sports Environmental Alliance (SEA)
Mike Sheahan  Australian journalist, #SEA Ambassador
Jeff McMullen  Journalist, author and film maker
Ross Tzannes AM  Lawyer and community leader
Toby Barber  Renewable Energy Engineer
David Ritter  CEO, Greenpeace Australia Pacific
Kirsty Albion  Director, Australian Youth Climate Coalition
Amanda McKenzie  CEO, Climate Council
Kelly O'Shanassy  CEO, Australian Conservation Foundation
Paul Oosting  National Director, Getup!
Archie Law  Executive Director, ActionAid Australia
Claire O'Rourke  National Director, Solar Citizens
Cam Walker  Campaign Coordinator, Friends of the Earth
Kate Smolski  CEO, Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales
Craig Wilkins  Chief Executive, Conservation Council of South Australia
Shar Molloy  Director, Environment Centre Northern Territory
Mark Wakeham  CEO, Environment Victoria
Darren Kindleysides  Director, Australian Marine Conservation Society