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The Hon. Anthony Albanese MP
334A Marrickville Road
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Dear Anthony

LABOR NEEDS TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST ADANI MINE

Last year when we met, you told us that it was Labor policy that the Adani mine should not go ahead unless it stacked up environmentally and economically. You told us that you did not believe that it would get up, and mentioned the low coal price – about \$60 per tonne – as an example of why it was not likely to be viable.

Since then, things have changed. The Stop Adani movement has managed to delay a start, coupled with refusals by forward-thinking domestic and international banks who have refused finance. But Adani will not give up easily, and the statement this week by Karan Adani that the group has lined up finance for the mine, following on from the sale of part of its debt on Abbott Point, must be taken seriously. As you are no doubt aware, the price for thermal export coal is currently over \$US115 per tonne, which makes it more attractive for producers – and also provides an incentive for Adani to supply directly its coal-fired power stations in India.

This puts renewed pressure on Australian government to assist with the final element, the rail line. Our members have been telling the Coalition that we oppose backdoor funding through EFIC for contractors, and that we oppose Minister Ciobo's relaxation of its rules to allow it lend to large projects like the Carmichael mine.

While we welcomed Anastasia Palaszczuk's decision last year to veto a NAIF loan for the rail project, we are aware of the limitations of that commitment, and that her government is still, for example, considering \$100 million to improve road access to the Carmichael mine.

We have also put in submissions as individuals and from CCBR to urge Minister Frydenberg to demand a full and proper assessment of Adani's plans to take water from Queensland rivers and basins.

It is time for Labor to step up, and we appeal to you as our local member and as a leader in the parliamentary party. A clear statement that the ALP opposes the mine, and all other new coal mines, because you care about the long-term future for next generations, is what is needed now to stop these environmentally unacceptable projects continuing to be considered.

We believe that this is also totally compatible with Labor's regard for Australia's workers. When the price of coal collapses, which it inevitably must because the world cannot afford more greenhouse gas pollution, the workers in the local industry will lose their jobs. And as you will be aware, if the Carmichael mine goes ahead, it will be highly automated and likely coupled with driverless trains, providing over the next decade a minimal number of jobs while destroying others. Industries like agriculture and Reef tourism lose out from both local and global risks from coal production, export and burning. As the Australia Institute paper released this month showed, the jobs of workers in other coal fields, including here in NSW, will be lost as Galilee coal displaces coal from these basins.

There are many in your electorate who look to Labor to take a stand rather than hope problems like Adani go away. Already over 55% of Australians oppose the mine (Reachtel poll October 2017) and our own less formal polling shows 95% of those we speak to locally do not want it to go ahead – at least as many as those who favour a transition to renewables. Between now and the next election, we will continue our campaigning work in this electorate and neighbouring ones. We are reminding people that politicians are our elected representatives, and need to hear at the ballot box that we want clean renewable energy, a rapid transition away from coal mining – and a stop to the Adani mine.

Labor, as a possible alternative government, must show that it can take the Paris agreement seriously. That means not just meeting our unimpressive 26-28% domestic emissions reduction, but our international obligations not to continue exporting the fuel that is more than any other driving the increase in greenhouse gases.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely