



STRONGER CALLS ON ALBANESE TO OPPOSE ADANI

An inner west action group has seconded calls for its local MP Anthony Albanese to come clean on his policy on future mining in Queensland's Carmichael coal basin.

Last week, StopAdani Sydney claimed Mr Albanese was discouraging Labor leader Bill Shorten from opposing the Adani coalmine. Now the well-established community group Climate Change Balmain-Rozelle (CCBR) is calling not just for a stop to the giant project, but for a united Labor to oppose the opening of any new coal mines.

"We don't think any party should encourage the idea that we can continue business as usual with coal mining," says CCBR's President Dominic Case. "All over the world people have learned that humans are damaging the climate, and that burning fossil fuels is one of the major causes."

CCBR met with Mr Albanese about the Adani mine last year, and heard that he is in favour of renewable energy.

"But," says Dominic, "Mr Albanese had no intention of acting to prevent the opening of this enormous coal mine, even though burning the coal would effectively cancel out all of Australia's modest attempts at reducing greenhouse gas emissions."

Last year, CCBR delivered over 700 letters to Mr Albanese from constituents calling for him to act on the Adani mine.

"Since our meeting, the Great Barrier Reef has had another major coral bleaching event, showing the devastating effect climate change is having on our natural environment," says Dominic, adding that the world has just experienced its hottest 5-year period on record.

"If Labor is concerned about jobs, so are we," Dominic explains. "Over 65,000 jobs in reef tourism could disappear along with our coral. We want to hear that the Labor Party will intervene by stopping further damage from coal mining and burning."

"As for jobs for the future," he continues, "instead of addressing job shortages by opening damaging new coal mines, we must create them in renewable energy projects, in education and in regional services."

Climate Change Balmain-Rozelle understands that ALP branches in Mr Albanese's Grayndler electorate have passed resolutions opposing the Adani mine, and in a CCBR survey, the group found overwhelming opposition to the mine.

"It's time for a firm statement that Labor will follow legal challenges to seek to revoke the mine's approval. And we will continue to call on all sides of politics to take a much stronger position – not just on Adani, but on moving Australia away from coal and gas right across the country," concludes Dominic.

For more information, call CCBR President Dominic Case on 0419 442 018 or Vice-President Angela Michaelis on 0410 716 478.