

Dear ALP,

This will *never* go ahead. Any public money spent on fossil fuels is a betrayal of our future.

Tell Queensland to Save the Reef instead.

Scott Sledge

President,



Northern Rivers Guardians, Inc

The Hon. Justine Elliot MP,  
Federal Member for Richmond

Dear Justine,

As you know, Westpac Bank recently announced a new policy to address climate change concerns. Their policy supports emissions controls to assist with the Paris Climate Agreements commitments signed by our government and it rules out lending to coal mines in new basins, also excluding projects with coal of a lesser quality, as is found in the Galilee Basin.

This decision by Westpac provoked an unprecedented attack by some Federal National Party Coalition parliamentarians. Most disgracefully by Federal Resources Minister Matt Canavan and Deputy PM Barnaby Joyce.

To hear their disrespectful outbursts one would imagine that *Westpac had made a decision against "the national interest", that "will deny jobs to regional Queenslanders" and "electricity to millions of poor people in India"*.

The people are sick of repeated, irresponsible misinformation! It is time for the truth, not propaganda.

Adani's own statement claims *less than 1500 jobs*. These would be dwarfed by the losses of jobs in the tourism and agriculture sectors. India has stated it does not want our coal and is already moving to cease coal imports. Their solar projects are increasing at a rate faster than anyone envisaged. Electricity for the poor of India is more effectively & affordably supplied by solar panels.

These Ministers appear to have an unhealthy emotional investment in coal which led to these tantrums and repeated misinformation over Westpac's decision. We question if they can be trusted to make decisions in the best interest of Australia?

By their refusal to let go of this fixation with coal, they are blocking Australia's economic progress and losing us opportunities to be world leaders in the renewable energy industry.

They need to get off the band wagon and stop peddling old technologies which are more expensive and polluting.

Instead of insulting rhetoric, listen when a financial institution like Westpac considers this project to be a bad investment. Good reason not to risk a loan of \$900,000 taxpayer funds. Will you consider it likely that Adani would *ever* repay this loan? Most coal mines find ways to escape their obligations even to "rehabilitate" dis-used sites.

We need leaders who will listen to the science of climate change and make decisions which best serve all Australians, considering the effects on tourism, agriculture, precious water resources, environment and long term impacts of climate on the health, livelihood & economy of Australia.

The reality is that there are more jobs and a better future in renewable energy. 68,000 jobs related to The Great Barrier Reef in the tourism industry alone.

Westpac should be applauded for what is obviously a sound, responsible, economic decision as good corporate citizens, based on facts, figures and science. Favouring finance which supports the necessary transition to renewable energies and aware of the danger of stranded assets.

Far from being "*Wimps that caved in to a few protesters*", **Westpac** has gained respect by listening to the concerns of their shareholders and customers.

**We ask you to speak out in Parliament to defend our climate and our future. The people of Australia do not want public funds invested in fossil fuel projects. Please do your job: represent the voters of this region on this vital interest issue.**

Yours Sincerely,

*Scott Sledge*

*President*

*Northern Rivers Guardians, Inc*

*4<sup>th</sup> May 2017*

I got this off FB: It sums up the situation I reckon

Browned off,

Sledge

Excellent analysis of Australia's energy politics:

"Australia relies more heavily on coal for its electricity than almost any other country in the world, yet we have some of the most expensive electricity in the world. Australia is producing record amounts of gas, and soon we will become the world's largest gas exporter. Yet the gas industry has told us that we have a "shortage" of gas. It assures us that the only solution is to allow even more fracking of coal seam gas on even more farmland. And despite the fact that the government claims to be both short of cash and committed to tackling climate change, they plan to subsidise Adani's enormous new export coalmine."