

MEDIA STATEMENT

3 May 2019

Premier, let's make a date for regional Queensland

After more than 18 months and seven revisions, the Queensland Labor Government still cannot commit to a date to finalise Adani Mining's two outstanding environmental management plans.

Adani Mining is calling on the Premier to take charge and show leadership, requesting the Queensland Labor Government commit once and for all to a date to finalise the plans.

CEO for Adani Mining Lucas Dow said that off the back of the State again delaying the approvals process by requesting an eighth round of new revisions, which he believes goes well beyond what is required to meet Adani's environmental requirements, the Department still refused to provide any firm dates to finalise the Black-Throated Finch Management Plan or the Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Management Plans.

"After receiving this advice from the Queensland Environment Department late yesterday, we are now feverishly working through their new requests," Mr Dow said.

"Although we believe the current version of the Black-Throated Finch Management Plan already meets our project conditions, we are not going to be pig-headed about it and we will review the feedback from the Queensland Department and respond accordingly".

"However, Department officials have refused to commit to a timeframe to finalise the plan, even if we were to accept the State's new round of requests in full," Mr Dow said.

"At what point does the Environment Minister get held to account for the performance of her own Department and its behaviour?"

"Furthermore, if the Department can't provide us an answer, can the Environment Minister, Deputy Premier or Premier provide us a date instead so we can get on with delivering thousands of jobs for regional Queenslanders?" Mr Dow said.

The Black-Throated Finch Management Plan has been under review by the Queensland Department of Environment and Science for more than 18 months, with seven revisions, independent reviews conducted and approvals already received by the Australian Federal Government.

The Queensland Department of Environment and Science late yesterday provided Adani Mining with a list of changes that they now want imposed in relation to the black-throated finch. In that short time frame and based on our initial review it appears that these new requested changes, stretch well beyond the conditions of the Environmental Authority that we are obligated to meet.

One example of such overreach includes the Department's insistence on post-doctoral qualifications for certain activities yet the Environmental Authority makes no reference of people needing to hold post-doctoral qualifications rather it simply states Adani Mining should instead require qualified ecologists. Which means we will engage people with relevant experience and qualifications – to insist that people must hold post-doctoral studies is both misplaced and entirely restrictive. We will engage the people that are best qualified and experienced, which may include people with post-doctoral qualifications. Accordingly we are we are saying the Queensland Labor Government cannot continue to try and make up new conditions or rules on the run.

Mr Dow said this was yet another example of the Queensland Government shifting the goal posts for the Carmichael Project.

"We have endured more than 18 months of endless requests for 11th hour changes, not to mention an external review lead by an individual who heads up an organisation whose members have stated anti-mining, anti-coal agendas, all while the Department has been waving through environmental approvals for other coal mines that also contain black-throated finches," he said.

"We are not unreasonable and we will continue to work with the Queensland Government to finalise these plans. We've jumped all their past hurdles and we'll jump this one as well, but it's time for the Queensland Labor Government to give us a date on finalising these outstanding management plans once and for all.

"We are not going away and we will see this through for the benefit of Queensland and in particular for the people in regional Queensland."

ENDS