

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

10 December 2019

### **Adani responds to questions on North Galilee Water Scheme**

To be attributed to an Adani Mining spokesperson:

*"This week the Australian Department of Environment and Energy decided that the North Galilee Water Scheme Project is a controlled action and as such requires further assessment under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.*

*"Adani Mining will continue to work with the Australian Government to meet our environmental obligations and requirements on the North Galilee Water Scheme Project.*

*"The North Galilee Water Scheme Project comprises a water pipeline, pump station infrastructure and the expansion of an existing dam in the Belyando/Suttor River catchment, to supply water to the Carmichael mine in central Queensland.*

*"The extraction of flood water to be pumped from the Belyando/Suttor River catchment was originally assessed and approved as part of the Environmental Impact Statement process in 2015, and then through the granting of a water licence by the Queensland Government in 2017.*

*"It equates to 12.5GL of water or less than 1% of the annual water flow available in the Belyando/Suttor River catchment. This water can only be taken when the river system is in flood, after other users, like farmers, have taken their share, and only when the river is flowing at a rate of 2,592 mega litres per day. Furthermore, Adani must pay upfront for this water at a similar rate to other industrial water users. These are some of the conditions of Adani's water licence, which was granted in 2017.*

*"The dam, which will be used to store the water harvested, holds an additional approval, which was granted in 2015 under Queensland Government planning legislation (Sustainable Planning Act 2009).*

*"In 2015 Adani received Queensland and Australian Government approvals to build the Carmichael mine in the Galilee Basin, located more than 300km west of the Queensland Coast line following the consideration of its Environmental Impact Statement.*

*"The Environmental Impact Statement was assessed against a number of provisions under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act including the Water Trigger.*

*"The North Galilee Water Scheme project referral is subject to standard public consultation and review processes, in line with federal legislative and regulatory requirements.*

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*"Work has already commenced on the Carmichael Mine and Rail Project and importantly, the North Galilee Water Scheme project is not required for these construction activities, however the water is required for safe mining operations."*

### **On background**

Adani recently lodged a new referral for the North Galilee Water Scheme project to the Australian Government's Department of Environment and Energy for assessment.

This new referral follows the Federal Court's consent orders in June this year, acknowledging the Department of Environment and Energy had identified and experienced a record-keeping administrative error in relation to their consideration of submissions made by the public for environmental assessment of the North Galilee Water Scheme project.

To ensure everyone has the opportunity to properly consider, review and comment on our North Galilee Water Scheme project, we voluntarily withdrew our previous referral, and lodged a new referral on the Project.

The North Galilee Water Scheme project is the same project as previously referred, however the new referral contains additional information about environmental management, water harvesting and ecosystems relative to the project footprint.

This week the Australian Department of Environment and Energy decided that the Project is a controlled action and as such requires further assessment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Adani Mining will continue to work with the Australian Government to meet our environmental obligations and requirements on the North Galilee Water Scheme Project.

For further information on the North Galilee Water Scheme Project please see attached for a detailed fact sheet.

**ENDS**

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