

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

15 February 2020

### **Adani statement on Galilee Blockade activity**

Anti-coal activist group Galilee Blockade has been forced to back down after again been caught out lying to the public about Adani's mining equipment and project.

The anti-coal organisation, headed by anti-fossil fuel activist Ben Pennings, had launched a social media campaign and plans to blockade a Brisbane business in an attempt to try and trick the public and media into believing that Adani's Carmichael mine will be operated by robots and not people.

After their deception was revealed they cancelled the protest.

Adani Mining CEO Lucas Dow said Galilee Blockade was planning to protest Brisbane company Rockwell Automation on Monday, even though Adani had no plans to use driverless trucks and equipment.

"We have already ordered our mining trucks, excavators and other equipment and they will be driven and operated by people, not robots," Mr Dow said.

"One of our 600 tonne excavators has already been constructed on site and is ready to get to work as soon as the first of our mining trucks arrive. Twenty four of our trucks, that all need people to drive them, are being assembled in Mackay and will arrive on site soon.

"The guys and girls from our teams can't wait to get behind the wheels of these brand new machines, and there'll be ads on our jobs portal over the coming weeks and months to boost our project team numbers.

"Just last week we were advertising for tradespeople to maintain this gear."

Our processing plant at the mine site, where coal will be prepared for transport, will also be operated by people not robots. The processing plant will use technology to safely control things like pumps and conveyor belts, just in the same way that technology is used to safely control traffic lights to keep road users safe.

Rockwell Automation is not currently contracted to do any work on our Carmichael mine and rail project, however we have worked with them in the past on the conveyor and stockpile management equipment at our North Queensland port, which was more than five years ago.

"This was yet another stunt based on lies and created by the anti-fossil fuel activists' sophisticated, well-funded and foreign-influenced PR machine to try and dupe the public and the media," Mr Dow said.

"The anti-coal activists have tried to trick the public into believing mistruths about our mine's impact on the Great Barrier Reef, claiming that we will be using water from the Great Artesian Basin both of which are completely untrue. This latest attempt to deceive people by claiming robots will operate our equipment is also false.

For further information contact:

Adani Australia Media

E: [ausmedia@adani.com.au](mailto:ausmedia@adani.com.au)

“To date the anti-coal activists have thrown everything but the kitchen sink at us to try and stop us building the Carmichael mine and rail project and they have failed. We are getting on with building the mine and rail project and this type of stunt where they seek to bully and intimidate workers who want to get on with their jobs is only hurting hardworking Queenslanders, like the people at Rockwell, who are simply going about their legal and legitimate business.

“Project construction is well underway. There are more than 200 people onsite and we have signed contracts worth more than \$750 million.

“The fact is there is demand from Asia for coal to provide energy to help lift people out of poverty in places like India so they can enjoy the kind of lifestyle we in Australia take for granted. Coal will continue to be an important part of the energy mix along with renewables for many years to come as we transition to a lower carbon future. That’s why we at Adani are investing in both thermal (coal) and renewable energy and are now India’s third largest solar energy company.”

Earlier this month another activist group, Front Line Action on Coal (FLAC), issued a retraction after it was also caught out lying to the media and public in Mackay after falsely claiming that Adani’s trucks will be automated. This is the very same lie that the Galilee Blockade anti-coal activists are now trying to again use to dupe the public.

Ends

### **Editors note**

Galilee Blockade is part of the Stop Adani movement that is co-ordinated and funded by the Sunrise Project, an anti-fossil fuel activist and advocacy organisation that funds and is closely associated with a variety of political advocacy and activist organisations including GetUp! to whom it contributed \$495,000 in 2018, MarketForces and IEFFA.

### **Resources and links:**

#### **SUNRISE PROJECT DONATION TO GETUP! AND LINKS TO #STOPADANI CAMPAIGN**

<https://www.news.com.au/finance/business/mining/big-donation-to-getup-spells-trouble/news-story/132b4f5dfec12c86581146bef37126b0>

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/climate/getups-500000-donation-to-change-poll-climate/news-story/214ebea45cb57f20f9adcc9d603c6a78>

<https://transparency.aec.gov.au/Download/ReturnImageByMoniker?moniker=76-BAIIZ3> (LAST PAGE)

Sunrise Project is the #StopAdani campaign:

Source: Sunrise Project’s 2018 Annual Report – page 21 (extract below): [https://sunriseproject.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Sunrise-Project-Annual-Report-2018\\_web.pdf](https://sunriseproject.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Sunrise-Project-Annual-Report-2018_web.pdf)

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## Senior management team

### **Sam La Rocca, Deputy Director**

Sam has more than 25 years' experience in building people-powered movements for a socially just and ecologically sane world. While completing his honours thesis on activist mobilisation, Sam co-founded activist education outfit The Change Agency to build strategic capacity in community campaigning in Australia and the Pacific. He's worked as a senior federal political advisor in the balance of power and designed and delivered game-changing field campaigns. More recently, Sam facilitated a process within the Climate Action Network to reset strategy across the movement, and lead Environmental Justice, election and organising strategy at GetUp!. Sam now manages Sunrise's Australian program and leads the #StopAdani campaign. Sam has a first class honours degree in Science focusing on Australian Environmental Studies, social policy and development.

#StopAdani webpage: <https://www.stopadani.com/>

The #StopAdani webpage has a direct interface to join the Galilee Blockade webpage:  
[https://www.stopadani.com/galilee-blockade-brisbane\\_action\\_group\\_qverzild](https://www.stopadani.com/galilee-blockade-brisbane_action_group_qverzild)

### ROCKWELL PLANNED PROTESTS/AUTOMATION CLAIMS

<https://www.facebook.com/GalileeBlockade/photos/a.1629996947257705/2591843101073080>

<https://www.facebook.com/GalileeBlockade/photos/a.1629996947257705/2591797174411006>

Blockade Event Link: <https://www.facebook.com/events/186929912656351/>

<https://www.facebook.com/GalileeBlockade/posts/2521492641441460>

### FLAC RETRACTION

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/FrontlineActionOnCoal/posts/2575097589269782>

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