Thank you for your correspondence about the Wangan and Jagalingou People’s native title rights with respect to Adani’s proposed Carmichael mine. I have been requested to reply to you on behalf of the Premier and Minister for Trade.

The Queensland Government is committed to complying in every respect with the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993 (the Act) which sets out processes that must be followed when native title interests may be affected.

It is important to be aware that, as is their right, a majority of the registered native title claimants for the land where the proposed mine and railway is to be located, the Wangan and Jagalingou People, have entered into an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) with Adani. The ILUA allows Adani to establish infrastructure needed for the project in return for compensation and employment opportunities for Wangan and Jagalingou People and their community. As required by the Act, the State of Queensland is a party to this agreement.

However, a minority of Traditional Owners did not sign the ILUA and have commenced Federal Court proceedings against Adani, Queensland South Native Title Services, the National Native Title Tribunal registrar, and the State of Queensland.

Given the difference of opinion between the Traditional Owners, the Queensland Government has taken a neutral position with respect to the court action, and will respect the court’s decision once it is made.

If the Carmichael mine project proceeds, the Queensland Government expects Adani to meet all of its obligations under the ILUA, to comply with all state and federal environmental conditions and for it to be economically viable. That is why the Premier wrote to the Prime Minister, the Honourable Malcolm Turnbull MP, on 12 December 2017 advising that Queensland will exercise its veto rights on financial assistance to Adani for the North Galilee Basin Rail Project, in accordance with Section 13(4) of the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility Investment Mandate Direction 2016.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write to the Premier.

Yours sincerely
Office of the Premier

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