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United voice supports Adani

THREE Central Queensland mayors have renewed calls for the Adani coal project to be approved to help secure the economic future of the region.

Mayors for the Whitsunday Regional Organisation of Councils, a collaboration between Whitsunday, Mackay and Isaac Regionals Councils, received an update on the crucial project today.

Mackay Mayor Deirdre Comerford, Whitsunday Mayor Jennifer Whitney and Isaac Mayor Anne Baker met with Adani representative Raj Guruswamy.

He told them the \$16 billion Carmichael Mine remained viable and would create thousands of jobs and inject millions of dollars into State Government coffers through royalties.

Diversify Mackay Leadership Alliance (DMLA) representative Tony Caruso and representatives of the Resource Industry Network (RIN) and Chamber of Commerce were also involved in the meeting.

Cr Comerford arranged the meeting to get an understanding on the current situation and the future prospects for the mega-mine and its ongoing approvals process.

“We need the jobs and this project would certainly be a significant boost to many local economies,” Cr Comerford said.

Speaking on behalf of Whitsunday ROC, Cr Comerford said the State Government had a responsibility to focus on delivering for Queenslanders

“We acknowledge that the state and federal governments have a responsibility to carefully consider all factors regarding approvals,” she said.

But Cr Comerford said the government should not get caught up in the well-orchestrated anti-coal campaign by opponents of the coal project, which was playing with the future of the north and central Queensland economies.



“Coal mining and the environment can work together and this project has met every requirement of the state’s strictest environmental conditions,” she said.

Mr Caruso, of the DMLA, said the ongoing negative campaign founded on misinformation about the mine was disturbing.

“The southern media and other groups are publishing information that overshadows the truth of the current situation,” he said.

Mr Caruso said Adani had earned the right to have the opportunity to get its project off the ground and had met stringent environmental conditions to date.

“Coal mining and the environment have worked collaboratively for many decades and there is no reason why this project can’t do the same,” he said.

Cr Comerford is chair of the DMLA, a group of local business, industry and community leaders working together to promote a sustainable, diverse future for the Mackay region. The DMLA supports the Adani project.

Whitsunday ROC, which includes Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday councils, also supports the Adani project.

It is confident Adani will continue to work with landholders to minimise any potential impacts on landholder livelihoods, the environment and the agricultural industry.

Cr Comerford said it was imperative that the Queensland Minister for State Development and Natural Resources and Mines, Anthony Lynham, considered using his prescribed project powers to give Adani every opportunity to get the project off the ground.

She said Mackay Regional Council delivered its 2015-16 budget with a focus on stimulating the local economy and called on the State Government to now show its economic credentials.

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