



MEDIA RELEASE – CARBON INTENSIVE CITIES NEED TO GET HOUSE IN ORDER

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Carbon intensive cities need to get their own house in order before lecturing the communities of Central Queensland about the environment, according to the mayors of the Isaac, Mackay and Whitsunday regions.

The comments by the Greater Whitsunday Council of Mayors (GWCoM) follows new research which reveals one of the nation's biggest cities generates more than 400 tonnes of carbon emissions per hectare annually.

GWCoM, the peak advocacy body representing the councils of Isaac, Mackay and Whitsunday regions, engaged leading consultancy Synergies to undertake a comparative analysis of the carbon emissions generated by a coal mine versus those of the population of Melbourne.

CO₂ emissions generated per hectare in Melbourne were revealed to be 402 tonnes annually. By comparison, the CO₂ output of an operating coal mine per hectare is 172 tonnes annually.

"We are tired of fly-in, fly-out activists lecturing us on the environment," GWCoM chair and Isaac Region Mayor Anne Baker said.

"The clear message here is change begins at home – your home, not ours.

"Perhaps make a genuine commitment to environmental change in your own community and reducing your carbon footprint before seeking to arbitrarily shut down an industry which effectively powers and builds our cities.

"Let's start talking about the environmental impact created by those in our cities and how they are planning to deal with that."

Whitsunday Region Mayor Andrew Willcox said Synergies' research found that coal and gas projects in the Galilee Basin had the potential to generate more than half a billion dollars in royalties and payroll tax annually.

"Over the two-decade operating life of a project, that's well over \$10 billion to fund government services and critical infrastructure, the better roads, public transport, schools, hospitals demanded by those in our cities," Mayor Willcox said.

"Those who reap the benefits of our toil here in Central Queensland are the same ones saying that we must stop one mine and pull the pin on developing the Galilee Basin.

"The Galilee Basin is a vast untapped resource of coal and gas which will yield billions in economic output and create tens of thousands of jobs."



Mackay Region Mayor Greg Williamson said coal and gas projects in the Galilee Basin had the potential to generate almost \$4 billion in economic activity annually and support more than 13,000 jobs in the Greater Whitsunday region by 2030.

“There is the potential for additional economic activity of more than \$1 billion per year, supporting 2400 jobs, during the construction phase of Galilee resources and infrastructure developments over the next decade.

“Under a medium development scenario, the regional economy could grow by \$3.9 billion by 2030, directly contributing to regional economic growth. Importantly, this economic activity will support some 13,400 jobs across all sectors of the region.

“Development of the Galilee Basin will be an absolute boon and we are tired of two-word slogans from activists who belittle the contribution of this region to the economy and seek to deny future generations access to the prosperity they have enjoyed by pulling the ladder up.”

University of Queensland economics researcher Professor John Mangan said the stimulus to the regional, state and national economies from the development of the Galilee Basin would be very significant.

“Economic modelling by Synergies Economic Consulting confirms the very large economic benefits that would flow to the Central Queensland, Queensland and Australian economies if these resources were developed,” Professor Mangan said.

“These benefits flow from both the construction activity required in Central Queensland as well as the export value of coal and gas. Benefits flow across the economy in wages, profits, export earnings and Government revenue.

“Any high-level economic modelling of the impact of large projects is indicative but, despite the conservative approach, the results confirm very large benefits for the region and the State.

“Failure to pursue these mining projects will represent a large opportunity cost to the Central Queensland – foregone income and jobs.”

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