

Stopping Adani – Broaden the fight Your Union and the Campaign for Green Jobs

No future in coal jobs

Workers at Glencore's Oaky North coal mine near Rockhampton have been locked out for 133 days. Glencore wants to tear up conditions, and pay workers based on profit not hours of work. These workers, facing off against the largest mining company in the world, deserve our support. But the dispute highlights the lack of future in coal jobs.

Adani is no different to Glencore. Environmental activist Vaishali Patil claims that Adani's promises of jobs in Indian communities seldom eventuated, and the few regional jobs created tended to be dangerous and underpaid.

There is no future in coal. Not only will it wreck the lives of people already suffering the effects of drought, storms and floods, it will fail to give rural Queenslanders secure jobs. Over the last five years 60% of global coal operations have been running at a loss. Michael Roche, of the Queensland Resources Council, claims these are some of the worst conditions that coal companies have faced in decades.

Transitioning to green jobs

Our unions can lead the fight for real jobs in renewables. Recently, unions in NY State have compelled the governor to roll out \$1.5 billion worth of renewables projects, creating 40,000 new jobs by 2020. Unions internationally are calling for just transitioning, with the UK Trades Union Congress calling for a million green jobs.

In Germany entire communities have transitioned successfully away from coal mining. Even in deeply conservative Texas, out of 48,794 energy jobs, wind employs 24,374 and solar 11,729. These are real jobs that allow people to provide a decent standard of living for their families.

Adani - lying about jobs

The jobs created by Adani will be few and precarious. They will not sustain rural communities. Solar and wind jobs can. Green agriculture can.

What unions can do:

- Demand that your union opposes coal mining. The Queensland Teachers' Union has opposed the Adani mine.
- Demand that your union campaigns for just transitioning.
- Demand that your union support the roll out of renewable energy infrastructure in rural Queensland.
- Demand that your super fund divests from fossil fuels.
- Fight for a maximum temperature for workplace operations. Once this is exceeded, work stops.
- Unions should demand that government integrate workplaces directly with public transport systems, commit to an expansion of public transport to service all major employment hubs, and set cheap fares.

The State Election

We have an exciting opportunity this election to vote for candidates who would use parliament as a platform for progressive ideas. The outcome this weekend will be crucial. A change of government would wind the clock back to the dark years of the Newman regime.

But looking to use parliament as a platform is not enough. The approach of running for public office is a limited strategy, one which generally consigns the agency of ordinary people to an add-on.

The Cloudland Collective argues for campaigns outside of parliament and activism in the unions as important means for rebuilding the left and progressing the fight for a different kind of society – one based on democratic control from below and environmental sustainability.

Produced by **The Cloudland Collective**
cloudlandcollective.org

Email us at editor@cloudlandcollective.org
www.facebook.com/TheCloudlandCollective