



June 14, 2017

The Hon. Malcolm Turnbull, MP
Prime Minister of Australia
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT 2600, Australia

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to urge you to reject the proposed Carmichael coal mine. The controversial mine has generated significant debate about its economic benefits and the need for government subsidies in a decreasing global market for coal. However, what is most alarming is the potential long-term environmental damage that will result from its development. The 4.7 billion tons of carbon dioxide created over the proposed life of the mine from the burning of the coal, whether in Australia, India or any other country, will further contribute to the damaging effects of climate change, including increases in global air and ocean temperatures, increased acidity of oceans, and destruction of coral reefs.

As we have all seen, the repeated massive bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef in recent years is a clear indication that we must pursue responsible policies and investments that protect our fragile ecosystems. As we wrote in our letter of 25th April, 2016, "As the custodian of the Great Barrier Reef on behalf of all humanity and future generations, we urge you, the Prime Minister of Australia, to do your utmost, and as soon as possible, to establish national emission reductions consistent with limiting the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees of global warming, the target of the 2015 Paris climate summit, and shift national energy policy to phase out coal, the leading contributor to Australia's emissions, and become a renewable energy based nation."

By abandoning development of the mine, Australia can demonstrate its climate leadership and send a clear message that it supports efforts to limit global warming. The rejection of the mine is also consistent with the government's objective 'to play our part in an effective global response to climate change' as indicated in the August 2015 Nationally Determined Contribution.

Now is the time for decisive action. We urge you to stop the development of the Carmichael coal mine and support renewable energy projects that align with Australia's ambitions and enhance broader global efforts to combat climate change.

Sincerely,

Ocean Elders

 HSH Prince Albert II	 Sir Richard Branson	 Dr. Bertrand Piccard	 Dr. Walter Munk	
 Capt. Don Walsh	 Nainoa Thompson	 Dr. Rita Colwell	 Dr. Sylvia Earle	
 H. M. Queen Noor	 Jose Maria Figueres	 Sven Lindblad	 Jean-Michel Cousteau	 Ted Turner

cc: The Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, Premier of Queensland