

14 July 2017

Rally opposing the NAIF loan to Adani

Over 30 BCCAG members rallied outside Tim's office to protest tax-payer funds being offered to Adani to build a rail line to Adani's proposed Carmichael Coal Mine. Tim was not available but we presented his office manager with the results of an opinion survey we had conducted in Bayside shopping strips. Those responding to the survey overwhelmingly objected to tax-payer funds being used to help finance the Adani Mine.

20 June 2017

Excerpt from Hansard

Mr TIM WILSON (Goldstein) (16:51): As Goldstein's representative, I want to put on the official record some issues that have been raised with me by three community organisations within my electorate: firstly, the Grandmothers Against Detention of Refugee Children; secondly, the Bayside Refugee Advocacy and Support Association; and thirdly, the Bayside Climate Change Action Group.

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The Bayside Climate Change Action Group have been in regular contact with me, raising various concerns. One of the things I do like about BCCAG, even though I may have some disagreements with them from time to time, is that they always engage constructively. In fact, in a recent email to me, they wrote that they believe very strongly that there is a growing understanding in the community of the magnitude of climate change risk and they are feeling that the government must show leadership in facing these challenges as well as meet its commitments to reduce emissions. That is what we are seeking to do. We do recognise the 'imperative need for energy security and a wish to present ideas on how that can be achieved while promoting environmentally conducive outcomes to investment in renewable energy'. That is what we are also seeking to achieve as a government.

The Bayside Climate Change Action Group welcomes moves by the government to place the matter of energy security on the national agenda—which has been very welcome. They agree that energy security does need attention at a time when coal-fired power stations are being replaced by intermittent renewables and that other factors, including the role of distributed energy and distributed energy storage, the need for utility-scale energy storage and the roles of demand-side management and risk management also need to be factored in. That is one of the things—as I said, they are very constructive.

They have also regularly raised with me their views on the Queensland Carmichael mine and the use of the concessional loan for the Northern Australian Infrastructure Facility to build a complementary railway line. Like all of these groups, I would like to thank them for their contribution.

27 April 2017

Protesting a NAIF loan to Adani

The meeting started late. David Rothfield and David Williams represented BCCAG. Tim was accompanied by his Secretary, Sue. He greeted us warmly and asked why the 'urgent' meeting.

We said we believed there was flawed reasoning behind the willingness of a government agency to approve a \$1Bn loan to Adani and we wanted to hear what the government reasoning was.

Tim said he believed that both Adani and the state government had sufficient interest in the mine to make sure it did go ahead, even without the NAIF subsidy. Therefore, a NAIF loan would ensure that the rail line would be open for other purposes than just Adani's.

We questioned the economic case and brought Tim's attention to an IEEFA report just published, which concludes the business case does not stack up and that the project is effectively unbankable, without extensive taxpayer subsidies.

Tim showed interest in the report and said he would read it. He flatly rejected the suggestion that the deal was a 'sop' to the National Party to keep them on side.

We asked Tim to consider the material we referred to and to come out publicly in opposition to the NAIF loan as 2 other Liberal MP's had done. Tim said he would read the referred to report.

30 April 2017

From related Email correspondence:

Reflections after our meeting

Dear Tim,

Thank you for making the time meet us last Thursday.

No doubt you've heard the news, that Westpac has just updated its climate policy, amongst other things to limit financing for any new thermal coal projects to existing coal producing basins and where the calorific value of the coal produced ranks in the top 15% globally. This clearly rules out funding Adani, as we have been asking them to do - see <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-04-28/westpac-adds-coal-to-its-lending-black-list/8479600>

The bank's update clearly takes on board the recent APRA statement that views climate change as 'a here and now risk' and that company directors could be found liable if they fail to carefully consider these risks - see <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-02-18/climate-change-a-financial-risk,-says-apra/8282670>

We provided you with strong evidence that the Adani mine project is unbankable. The Westpac decision corroborates that. You said you would review the material we referred you to.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that the government is attempting to flog a dying technology back into life, even as business is opting out. Clearly the owners of such stranded assets are not going to give up without a fight. Some of the bigger players, such as Rio Tinto know where the future lies and have been moving their portfolios away from coal. Others have stubbornly refused to see the writing on the wall. They want the Australian Government and Australian tax-payers to throw

them a life raft.

We strongly believe the case against the NAIF loan is overwhelming. There is no longer even a business case for the mine. Our appeal to you, as an independent liberal thinker and as the representative of our members in Parliament is, to declare publicly that you do not support any taxpayer funds going to the Adani Mine Project, as two of your colleagues have done.

We would be grateful to receive your considered response to our appeal.

Other matters that we would like to discuss with you, can wait for another opportunity.

Kind Regards,

David

David Rothfield
Acting President
Bayside Climate Change Action Group

Tim's Reply: Reflections after our meeting

Hi David,

I've read your email and the documentation you have provided. I have taken all your points on board.

As I advised in the meeting, the approval for the mine is principally a matter for the State government.

The issue for the Federal government is the NAIF loan. I plan to continue to read more widely before making a decision.

I don't agree the government is trying to flog a dying technology back to life.

State and Federal governments are keen to have jobs for Australians, from exportable industries and in an economically and environmentally sustainable way. Every industry has an environmental footprint - even renewables.

It's quite clear that there is a strong and coordinated campaign to argue against the development of the Adani mine. That's fine and people are free to do so in a free society.

As an elected representative, I have a responsibility to look at the whole story and make my own assessment. I would hope you would want nothing less. That's why I have said I am happy for you to continue to provide me with information.

Best wishes,

Tim

Tim Wilson MP
Federal Liberal Member for Goldstein



PRIME MINISTER

Reference: MC16-076228

14 OCT 2016

Mr Tim Wilson MP
Member for Goldstein
368 Centre Road
BENTLEIGH VIC 3204

Dear Mr Wilson 

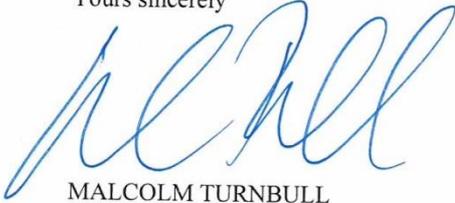
Thank you for your letter dated 21 September 2016 regarding the Bayside Climate Change Action Group's motion on federal funding for the proposed Carmichael coal mine.

The Adani Carmichael coal mine will be a major boost for Queensland and Australia and we welcome this investment. As I have previously said, commercial operations need to stand on their own merits and there is no public funding planned for the Adani coal mine.

Decisions to issues loans under the Northern Australian Infrastructure Facility (NAIF) are made by its independent board with the goal of putting in place key economic infrastructure that helps to develop the north. The Government does not have the power to direct the NAIF Board on the provision of concessional loans.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me.

Yours sincerely



MALCOLM TURNBULL



TIM WILSON MP
Federal Liberal Member for **Goldstein**

The Hon. Malcolm Turnbull, MP
Prime Minister of Australia
Suite MG-8
Ministerial Wing, Ground Floor,
Parliament House CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

RE Bayside Climate Change Action Group motion

Following on from our recent discussion on the floor of the House of Representatives, I have received notification that the members of the Bayside Climate Change Action group have passed an unanimous resolution which asks that I notify you of their resolute opposition to any government assistance to the Carmichael coal mine project.

The Bayside Climate Change Action group is resolute in their stance that no public money should support the project if it cannot stand on its own merits. The resolution they passed at their recent meeting follows:

This meeting calls on the member for Goldstein, Tim Wilson, to make known to the Prime Minister, our resolute opposition to any assistance whatsoever being provided by the Federal Government to the proposed Carmichael coal mine or any of its associated rail or port projects.

Thank you for your consideration of the Bayside Climate Change Action Group.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Wilson MP
Federal Liberal Member for Goldstein

368 Centre Road, Bentleigh VIC 3204 (03) 9557 4644 tim.wilson.mp@aph.gov.au

www.timwilson.com.au [TimWilsonForGoldstein](https://www.facebook.com/TimWilsonForGoldstein) [timwilsoncomau](https://twitter.com/timwilsoncomau)

1 September 2016

Dear David,

We will formally write to the Prime Minister, but I can confirm that I have passed on the message to him personally on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Best wishes,

Tim

Tim Wilson MP
Federal Liberal Member for Goldstein

1 Sep 2016,

Claire Ewart-Kennedy
Office Manager for Tim Wilson MP.

Dear Claire,

At the public forum held last night, attended by members of the Bayside Climate Change Action Group as well as other members of the public resident in Goldstein, the following resolution was put and supported by all in attendance:

This meeting calls on the member for Goldstein, Tim Wilson, to make known to the Prime Minister, our resolute opposition to any assistance whatsoever being provided by the Federal Government to the proposed Carmichael coal mine or any of its associated rail or port projects.

We believe this sentiment is shared by many of Tim's constituents who worry about the Australian Government being tied to a project that cannot stand on its own merits, in a post coal era.

Kindly bring this resolution to Tim's attention.

Kind Regards,

David Rothfield
Vice President
Bayside Climate Change Action Group
03 9589 1740