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Healthy planet, healthy people

Dear Members of the Board of Commonwealth Bank,

Doctors for the Environment Australia (DEA) strongly urges you to publically rule out funding for the Adani Carmichael coal mine. This mine poses a grave danger to public health both in Australia and globally, and is not consistent with global efforts to limit climate change as per the Paris Agreement.

Climate change is described by The Lancet medical journal as the greatest threat to public health of our time. The health effects of climate change are already being felt in Australia – with increased heat waves, extreme weather events, bushfires and changing distribution of infectious diseases. Globally, climate change threatens the very fundamentals of health such as access to clean air and water and sufficient nutrition.

The Adani Carmichael mine would be the largest coal mine in Australia and one of the largest in the world. This is contradictory to best available scientific evidence on climate change mitigation. Australia's calculated share of the global carbon budget to limit climate change requires us to keep over 90% of fossil fuels in the ground, and even existing mines need to be retired before being fully exploited.

Prior to the Paris Agreement, Commonwealth Bank along with other Australian banks committed to be part of global efforts to limit warming to no more than 2 degrees. Keeping this commitment requires Commonwealth bank to rule out funding for thermal coal expansion such as in the Galilee Basin.

As doctors, it is our responsibility to protect and promote public health. As a good corporate citizen, we believe it is your responsibility to invest ethically and to choose not to support destructive and dangerous projects such as the Adani Carmichael mine.

Please see our attached factsheet for more detail on the health effects of the Adani Carmichael mine.

Sincerely,

Dr Sujata Allan (MBBS, DCH)  
National Management Committee Member of DEA

**DEA Scientific Committee**

Prof Peter Doherty AC  
Prof Stephen Leeder AO  
Prof Lidia Morawska  
Prof Hugh Possingham  
Dr Rosemary Stanton OAM

Prof Stephen Boyden AM  
Prof Michael Kidd AM  
Prof Ian Lowe AO  
Prof Peter Newman AO  
Prof Lawrie Powell AC  
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