



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Tuesday 7 December 2021

### **Time for politicians and governments to replace talk with action and stand up for hi-vis workers**

Adani Australia CEO and Country Head Lucas Dow has called on Queensland politicians to protect the State's coal industry workers from anti-fossil fuel activists who are making workplaces dangerous.

Mr Dow said it was only a matter of time before someone was seriously injured or killed by the actions of professional activists who are allowed to flout Queensland laws or run riot after receiving soft sentences.

That risk has grown in recent weeks as activists camping without consent on Bravus Mining & Resources' mining lease intensify their campaign of worker intimidation while their peers use outlawed lock-on devices to disrupt port and railway infrastructure.

"We're an industry that puts the health and safety of our workforce first," Mr Dow said.

"But the Queensland Government seems reluctant to do everything it can to protect mining industry workers from the danger and atmosphere of harassment and intimidation created by activists.

"Activists are camping on our mine site without consent and the Queensland Government will not provide the direction to police in order to move them on. The other day this group of anti-coal activists thumbed their noses at State and Commonwealth legislation by landing an unauthorised chartered helicopter in close proximity to our operational open-cut mining pit so they could unload party supplies, including what appeared to be bottles of beer and wine.

"They use lock-on devices to halt trains and port activities and waste police time and come back to do it all over again as there are next to no penalties.

"Our people have told us they hold real concerns and worries about the near misses when their train could have run a protestor over or when they could have re-activated a conveyor belt and unknowingly killed an activist illegally locked-onto it.

"All sides of politics and government are quick to claim they support the coal industry but when the rubber hits the road where are they? It seems that if you wear hi-vis you're on your own, don't look to government to watch out for you."

Mr Dow said Queensland needed to give the tens of thousands of people who make up the coal mining industry certainty they could go to work without fear of activist intimidation, harassment, or sabotage.

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“We shouldn’t be seeing anyone who has committed a second offence having no conviction recorded and there should be jail terms for hardcore repeat offenders,” he said.

“One woman, Juliet Lamont, who was arrested after locking onto a train last week, had been arrested four other times in the last few years.

“She was given a one month suspended sentence and a \$500 fine – a fraction of the two years’ imprisonment or \$7,000 fine available to the courts under the Government’s Dangerous Attachment Device laws.

“That’s a slap in the face to the mining industry workers who obey the law and whose hard work creates billions of dollars in royalty payments that fund Queensland’s schools and hospitals.

“The man who suspended himself from one of our stacker reclaimers at our port in Bowen last week was the same activist who caused traffic chaos in Brisbane when he suspended himself from the Story Bridge in 2019.

“The Government was outraged about that at the time, but not last week as it seems the Government’s concerns do not extend to regional Queensland’s coal communities.

“Tough laws are useless if they are not applied, and it’s time the Government got serious about enforcing real consequences for activists who choose to deliberately break the law and put Queenslanders’ lives at risk.”

**ENDS**

**Editor’s notes** (continued pages 3-6):

**Activist camp activity on Bravus Mining & Resources’ mining lease:**

Activist from the unauthorised protest camp on our mining lease blocking our female worker in her vehicle – activists shout obscenities at our female worker:

<https://vimeo.com/user73546893/download/649282144/920f655848>

Activist with Socialist Alternative megaphone intimidating our female worker and stopping workers from getting to work or home to their families:

<https://vimeo.com/user73546893/download/649803659/82f728e84d>

Activist driving dangerously on our mining lease and damaging environmental safeguards:

<https://vimeo.com/user73546893/download/651321283/78c0a98c89>

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Activists landing a chartered helicopter without notice or authorisation on the mining lease – within 100m of our operational open-cut mine and within the restricted zone of our airport:  
See still photographs accompanying this email

### Soft sentencing examples:

#### Juliet Lamont:

**11-Jan-18** At about 10:40 pm on the 11th of January 2018, the defendant and a group of associates consisting of a group of males and females have approached the offence location, namely, the Adani Abbot Point coal terminal located at Abbot Point, Bowen. The defendant and others have entered the port facility and unlawfully gained access to a structure on the site, namely the coal loading trestle, which is located at the northern side of the facility. The defendant has climbed about 50 metres in the trestle and locked onto the trestle structure. The location that the defendant has locked on is approximately 20 metres from the ground and houses a large conveyor belt, rollers and electric motors moving coal offshore to ships. Being in this area while it is under operation is inherently high risk due to its height above the ground and open moving machinery which could cause serious injury or death.

**13-Mar-18** Bowen Magistrates Court sentencing hearing

Charge 1: Trespass - 20 penalty units or 1 year's imprisonment (s.11(2) SOA);

Charge 2: Contravene direction – 40 penalty units (s 791(2) PPRA);

Charge 3: Interfering with ports operation – 200 penalty units (s 292(1) TIA).

Outcome: Fine of \$8,000 no conviction recorded

**22-Feb-19** Townsville District Court - Appeal Hearing

Outcome: Fine of \$2,000 no conviction recorded

Lawyers: Caxton Legal Centre

[Avery & Ors v Queensland Police Service \[2019\] QDC 21 \(sclqld.org.au\)](#)

#### General background on Lamont:

- 50 y/o, mother of two from Byron Bay, NSW, who relocated to Townsville during COVID.

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Arrested at Abbot Point in January 2018:

- <https://www.echo.net.au/2018/03/byron-mother-daughter-activists-fined-adani/>
- <https://www.queenslandjudgments.com.au/caselaw/qdc/2019/21>
- <https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/whitsunday/adani-claims-anticoal-activists-cost-company-75m/news-story/1359200bfb8e444e2556000a380b9544>
- <https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/crime-court/interstate-adani-activists-cop-enormous-fines/news-story/22bc8bdc7280b97f7b33c72b67c6ca35>

Arrested at Siemens protest in NSW in January 2020:

- <https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/northern-district-times/antiadani-protesters-push-to-have-charges-reduced-after-protest-at-siemens-office-in-macquarie-park/news-story/01720c03e508cd856eaf0d9eccc7b173>

Participated in other coal related protests (Whitehaven):

- <https://www.facebook.com/greenpeaceaustraliapacific/photos/truly-inspirational-juliet-lamont-and-her-16-year-old-daughter-luca-spent-over-2/10153611801387971/>
- <https://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/2899902/mum-daughter-in-tree-to-make-point-in-mine-protest/>

Arrested at Abbot Point 2021:

- **FLAC [Tweeted](#)** 'BREAKING: 2ND QLD COAL PORT SHUT DOWN IN A WEEK BY SAME 2 CLIMATE ACTIVISTS Work stopped this morning at @adaniaustralia coal port in Bowen, 1 week after doing the same thing in Mackay.
- **Update: [FLAC Facebooked](#):**
  - UPDATE: CLIMATE ACTIVISTS DENIED BAIL AFTER PROTEST AT ADANI COAL PORT
  - Juliet Lamont and Kyle Magee were both denied bail at Bowen Magistrates Court today and remanded in custody until November 8th. The two of them stopped work this morning at Adani's North Queensland Export Terminal in Bowen after doing the same last week at Hay Point Coal Terminal in Mackay.
- **Stop Adani [Tweeted](#)** 'Parents and climate activists Juliet Lamont & Kyle Magee were both denied bail at Bowen Magistrates Court today and remanded in custody until November 8th.

Arrested at Hay Point 2021:

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- **Frontline Action on Coal** [Facebooked](#):
  - BREAKING: Two climate activists have locked themselves to infrastructure at Hay Point Coal Terminal in Mackay this morning, to shut down exports and highlight the urgent need for climate action ahead of the upcoming COP26 climate talks in Glasgow.
  - **Kyle Magee** and **Juliet Lamont** locked themselves to the coal conveyor belt at Queensland's largest coal port and are refusing to move on. They are calling for international governments to introduce trade restrictions on Australia in response to the country's climate inaction.

[Photograph 1:](#)



Arrested on 30 November 2021 on the railway line:

- <https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/townsville/frontline-action-on-coal-protesters-lock-on-at-bowen-to-stop-bravus-first-coal/news-story/04925bbf72c383590210e92e7c9a87b5>

**Paul Jukes (the activist who suspended himself from the stacker reclaimer and the Story Bridge):**

Bailed without conditions for his Story Bridge protest:

- <https://mobile.twitter.com/arlaughton/status/1181755349096787968?lang=bg>
- <https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/dangling-mans-painful-past-of-destruction-and-heartbreak-at-hands-of-climate-change/news-story/3f17cbb2f7bc0986f0474cb87b033c6e>

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- <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-10-08/protester-hanging-from-brisbane-story-bridge-charged-by-police/11581382>
- <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=559405854800037>

### Other sentencing examples:

[Rail line climate protesters win appeal on jail terms – Proctor \(qlsproctor.com.au\)](#)

[EH v QPS; GS v QPS \[2020\] QDC 205 \(sclqld.org.au\)](#)

- Appeal by two young offenders
- Original sentence delivered in Bowen Magistrates court
- Appeal delivered in Cairns District Court
- Sentence of 3 months imprisonment, wholly suspended for 2 years
- Overturned to \$1,000 fine with no conviction recorded
- Judge Tracy Fantin delivered the appeal judgement
  - Her official judicial profile page reads: *Her Honour is a longstanding member of the Queensland Environmental Law Association and the Environmental Defender's Office of Northern Queensland.* [Her Honour Judge Tracy Fantin | Supreme Court Library Queensland \(sclqld.org.au\)](#)

<https://archive.sclqld.org.au/qjudgment/2019/QDC19-171.pdf>

- Appeal by one trespasser (in the vicinity of the Port of Abbot Point)
- Original sentence delivered in the Bowen Magistrates Court
- Appeal delivered in Brisbane District Court
- Fine significantly reduced from \$10,000 plus ~\$1,500 in restitution to \$1,000 fine, with the Police being ordered to pay the protester her legal costs of \$1,800
- Judge Ian Dearden delivered the appeal judgement
- Judge Dearden has moderated an Environmental Defender's Office debate at Woodford Folk Festival -- GREAT BARRIER REEF v THE PEOPLE OF QLD: "In this light-hearted trial, the Reef is suing us for allowing developments that have harmed its ecosystem. Dr Selina Ward, Dr Ian Lowe and Jo Bragg (EDO) contribute to each side of the fence, with His Honour Judge Ian Dearden presiding on the palings. Bound to be raucous and irreverent, the people of Qld should hope that the Reef is gentle with them".
- Judge Dearden contributes to the Greenhouse Program which includes scientists, authors, intellectuals, environmentalists, inventors, and a senator/spokesperson on climate change: <http://abccarbon.com/greenhouse-at-woodford-folk-festival/>

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