



Bird call ends in backdown

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THE State Government has been forced into an embarrassing backdown after wrongly confirming a controversial environment group would conduct a review into the Carmichael coal mine's management plan for a threatened bird species.

After staunchly defending its decision to appoint the Threatened Species Recovery Hub, the Government on Monday night issued a clarification to Indian miner Adani, which said only the group's director would lead the review.

In an email, a senior Department of Environment and Science officer said that while

Hub director Brendan Wintle would lead the review, this would not be under the "auspices" of the Hub.

The correspondence came three days after the department wrote to Adani saying "the review is being undertaken by the Threatened Species Recovery Hub".

The bizarre retraction comes after heavy criticism from the resources industry, given the Hub's experts include some who have supported an immediate end to coal mining and rejected the use of biodiversity offsets to protect displaced animals.

The review – the final hurdle Adani must clear before starting construction – will consider the company's plan

for a 33,000ha biodiversity offset around the mine site for the black-throated finch.

While the move has been applauded by environmentalists, there is anger over the Government's decision to pervert usual processes by conducting another review.

"Regional Queensland communities have every right to be angry," Minerals Council of Australia chief Tania Constable said.

Australian Resources and Energy Group's Tara Diamond said Queenslanders deserved a government which "supports major job-creating industries" rather than "appeasing minority activist views and chasing inner city votes at the expense of the regions".