



114 Boundary Street
Railway Estate, Townsville
Qld, 4810
PO Box 364, Townsville
Ph: 61 07 47716226
office@nqcc.org.au
www.nqcc.org.au

MEDIA RELEASE

13 May 2013

NQCC notes excess port capacity in Queensland

Glencore Xstrata today announced that it has dumped plans to build a coal export terminal at Balaclava Island, 40 km north of Gladstone, citing poor coal market conditions and excess port capacity in Queensland.

“It is somewhat ironic that on the very day that comments on the proposed expansion of the Port of Townsville are due to the State Coordinator-General, the coal giant Glencore Xstrata is shelving its plans for port expansion on the grounds of excess supply. Obviously, Balaclava Island is a long way from Townsville and we are not suggesting that Townsville product could go through there, but port expansion in Queensland is out of control” said North Queensland Conservation Council Coordinator, Wendy Tubman.

“The Port of Townsville was established in 1884, to allow small ships to ply largely local and regional waters. It was not established with an eye to thousands of massive ships travelling the world.

“The port is located in a shallow bay, adjacent to what has been recognised internationally as an environmental icon with Outstanding Universal Value, requiring careful management. The highly industrialised port is located in the centre of a major city with a large and growing population and a significant tourism industry.

The iconic marine environment that the port uses is extremely stressed and at risk. Further expansion will cause permanent, irrevocable and significant damage to the marine environment and image of Townsville and to the Great Barrier Reef and the World Heritage Area.

“It is time to re-consider the sense of a major port in the current location.”

Contact: Wendy Tubman 0428 987 535