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## **MEDIA RELEASE – 11/02/19**

### **Floodwaters carrying environmental contaminants is a concern**

North Queensland Conservation Council (NQCC) is concerned about heavy metal residues flowing into the environment after floodwaters caused the tipping of an ore train near Julia Creek. The train was transporting lead, copper and zinc which has spilled into flowing waters from derailed train wagons.

“One of the lasting impacts of this flood event for years to come will be contaminations from overflowing tailings dams, as well as this incident of an ore train spillage near Julia Creek,” said NQCC’s Campaign Manager, Tarquin Moon.

“This incident is a reminder of the need for updated risk management strategies of all companies to cope with the predicted increased frequency and severity of weather events in a changing climate,” she said.

“Lead, copper and zinc are toxic to biotic systems and are known to bio-accumulate in the tissue of fish and other organisms. This can shorten their lifespan, cause reproductive problems and affect the entire food chain.”

“It is important at this time, even with no site access to the site, that the Queensland Government is open and transparent about how they are responding to this incident.”

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*NQCC is the voice for the environment in North Queensland, campaigning as the peak non-government environmental organisation in our region since 1974. We protect the environment through advocacy and education, promote the values of the natural environment, and engage with policy and planning processes to advocate ecologically sustainable development. Our region covers the coast from Cardwell in the north, south to Bowen and west to the Northern Territory border*