

Subject: submission to the sustainable ports bill
Date: Tuesday, 30 June 2015 12:39:24 PM

Dear Sir.

As residents of Hay Point, we are very concerned that the new Qld Govt. failed to include a ban on transshipping in GBRMP waters as promised pre election. Many locals voted for Labour due to this promise to prohibit a very flawed method of loading bulk coal carriers, which could have disastrous results for our local environment and waters.

Studies show that the Transshipping concept works ok if carried out carefully in sheltered bays, fiords, estuaries, in the lee of islands etc, but definitely not out in open waters, as proposed off Hay Point.

Coal ships will be loaded where they anchor, some 15-- 30 ks offshore, where 3metre+ seas, and 30knot+ winds are common.

Both federal and state environmental ministers should be aware of a Transshipping disaster that occurred in similar open waters, off the coast of Colombia in 2013. Drummond Coal, a large world wide coal exporter, spilt 2000 tonnes of coal, when a heavily loaded coal barge was battered by large waves while under tow out to a waiting ship. They told no-one until all nearby beaches and foreshores were heavily contaminated by washed up coal. The Colombian Govt. fined them \$3.6 m US dollars and transshipping operations have been banned. They are now building hard structure conveyor trestles and ship berths similar to Glencore, BHP and Anglo, who also export from the same port.

The Mitchell Ports Group proposal for this port, endorsed by North Qld Bulk Ports [NQBP], will have major impacts on our local communities and environment, with an overland conveyor passing through a local wildlife refuge and 20 hectares of natural mangroves before reaching the sea, where a huge barge loading structure will be built directly in front of our local hotel/motel, with the loss of 500m of beaut sandy beach.

No-one can build a dustless, noiseless coal loading facility, so the community of Half Tide Beach, which has existed since 1930, will be subjected to 24/7 noise, lights, coal dust emissions etc. 500m from our homes.

We know this port has been classified as a " Priority Port Development Area", but existing communities should not be subjected to sleep deprivation, health issues, loss in property values etc. Coal royalties keep our great state rolling ,but there has to be a balance. Communities and the environment should not be steamrolled by the dash for the black coal cash!!

Many local residents are employed at the 2 terminals and western mines, so we are not anti coal, but we understand local conditions and consider a transshipping operation operating offshore here , will be a disaster in the making, that will one day cause major damage to our beaut area and GBR.

We respectfully ask that a permanent ban on a perilous coal loading operation, be instigated asap.

Thanks for the opportunity to make this submission.

The Dallas Family

