

# STATEMENT FROM ABBOT POINT OPERATIONS

7 February 2019

The past fortnight has seen North Queensland experience an extreme weather event, which has created a disaster zone in many areas across the state.

It has caused flash flooding and land slips across an area that stretches 700km from Cairns to Mackay.

Unfortunately, Bowen has not been immune to the extreme weather.

More than 700mm of rain, high winds and flash flooding has occurred throughout Bowen over the past fortnight.

Like many other businesses, operations at the Abbot Point Port have also been impacted.

Operations at Abbot Point Port were suspended early this week due to the extreme weather, which made it unsafe for employees to continue operations with many areas of the Terminal deemed unsafe for entry. Our priority is, and always will be, the safety and well-being of our employees.

More than 900mm of rainfall has fallen since late December,

A further inspection was able to be undertaken onsite today. The inspection indicates there has been no release of waters into the marine environment or the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, however flood water has been released to the Caley Valley wetlands from an authorised release point.

Abbot Point Operations promptly reported these preliminary inspection findings to the Department of Environment and Science.

Abbot Point Operations will continue to monitor the releases and keep the Department informed, and is confident that no environmental harm has or will occur.

Since 2017, Abbot Point Operations has implemented a number of measures to improve environmental management, including the commencement of a three-year program (involving an initial \$15 million investment project currently underway and a total program forecasted cost up to \$50 million) to facilitate continuous water infrastructure upgrades. These upgrades are improving our ability to mitigate the impacts of extreme weather events such as cyclones and floods.

It is important to note that these upgrades as part of this three year program have already delivered successful outcomes in mitigating a large portion of this weather event by reducing the volume of flood water released into the Caley Valley Wetlands over the past fortnight.

Abbot Point Operations will work in concert with the Department of Environment and Science to ensure we maintain our strict environmental standards in place at the Port.

We recognize there is significant interest in the operations of Abbot Point Port. We have chosen to make this statement with the expectation that people recognise our commitment to act with integrity and transparency at Abbot Point Operations.

**ENDS**

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