

STATEMENT FROM ABBOT POINT OPERATIONS

28 February 2019

This week there has been further dangerous and illegal protests by anti-coal zealots who have flown into Bowen from out of town to protest against port operations.

In the past three days two people have been arrested for illegal trespass and interfering with Port facilities. There have been threats of further trespass, and this afternoon protestors are illegally blocking the railway line that leads to the Abbot Point Terminal.

In response, Abbot Point Operations has released the following statement to remind these anti-coal zealots of the dangerous consequences of their actions.

This statement can be attributed to the CEO of Abbot Point Operations, Dwayne Freeman:

"Abbot Point Coal Terminal is a local business that has been operating since 1984. We are a major employer and a mainstay of the local and regional community and economy.

"Again, we find ourselves the target of illegal and unsafe protest action, which is endangering lives and affecting our legitimate and legal local business.

"Extreme activist groups such as Frontline Action on Coal (FLAC), Stop Adani, Extinction Rebellion Australia, the Australian Environmental Students Network (AESN) and their organisers are orchestrating illegal and unsafe activities and I call on them to immediately cease.

"These groups and individuals have no knowledge of a heavy industrial site like ours and if they continue, there is a high risk that someone will be seriously injured or killed as a result of their dangerous actions.

"We respect the rights of people to conduct peaceful protests, however the current activities are illegal, unsafe and far from peaceful.

"It is our opinion that the penalties for such dangerous behaviour need to see criminal convictions of offenders, in order to deter them from continuing their illegal and unsafe actions.

"The health and safety of our employees, contractors and visitors are paramount and we will do everything in our power to prevent an injury or fatality occurring at our site."

ENDS