

# STATEMENT FROM ABBOT POINT OPERATIONS

1 March 2019

Abbot Point Operations welcomed Bowen's community leaders to the site this week for a tour of the infrastructure and the Caley Valley Wetlands following the extreme weather event earlier this month.

The visit comes amid continued illegal and dangerous protest activity in the region by various fly-in, anti-coal extremists.

These out of town protesters are continuing to interfere with our operations and nearby rail facilities. The justifications they have given for this illegal activity is misguided and based on myths and complete misinformation.

Just this week, two people have yet again been arrested for illegal trespass and interfering with Port facilities. There have also been threats of further trespass, and there is currently a protestor illegally blocking the railway line that leads to the Abbot Point Terminal.

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

*"This week we were pleased to welcome Bowen's community leaders to view and inspect our infrastructure and the Caley Valley Wetlands to see first-hand the state of the local environment following recent heavy rain and flooding.*

*"We are proud of our operations and the efforts of our team to protect the local environment. We were pleased to show local community leaders the improvements we have made to our water management systems and the healthy state of the Caley Valley Wetlands.*

*"From December to early February, Abbot Point received more than 900mm of rain.*

*"We self-reported an uncontrolled release of floodwater into the Caley Valley Wetlands and have been working with the Department of Environment and Science ever since to ensure the health of the environment.*

*"We can confirm that the very minor elevation in total suspended solids, following an extraordinary weather event did not cause any damage and there was no 'coal-laden' water discharged, and there has been no impact on the Great Barrier Reef.*

*"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.*

*"Since taking over the maintenance and operations of the Port in October 2016, we have spent \$15 million to date improving water management infrastructure, with a further \$35-45 million allocated for further works.*

*"The fly-in protestors who are in Bowen this week have no knowledge or understanding of our community, or our operations, and are putting themselves and our people in unacceptable danger.*

*"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.*

*"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 behavior 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**