

STATEMENT FROM ABBOT POINT BULKCOAL (APB)

ABBOT POINT BULKCOAL cleared by court of causing harm to Caley Valley Wetlands

21 September 2018

Today ABBOT POINT BULKCOAL (APB) has been cleared of causing any environmental harm to the Caley Valley Wetlands during or following Tropical Cyclone Debbie in March 2017.

APB today welcomed the decision of the Environment and Planning Court to set aside the environmental evaluation notice issued by the Department of Environment and Science for Caley Valley Wetlands.

The Department of Environment and Science issued the environmental evaluation notice to APB in September 2017, following misleading allegations produced by anti-mining groups.

APB CEO Mr Dwayne Freeman said the environmental evaluation notice was issued despite an environmental assessment following the cyclone, which was conducted by the Department, along with assistance from the Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation (DSITI) and CSIRO, confirming there was no evidence of environmental harm.

"The port has been the subject of many false and misleading claims including that we had polluted wetlands during Cyclone Debbie," Mr Freeman said.

"The Court's decision today is a clear acknowledgement that there was no reasonable grounds to issue the environmental evaluation, as no evidence of environmental harm ever existed.

"APB is held to the same strict environmental regulations as all other Queensland ports and we take that responsibility very seriously.

"It is disappointing that anti-mining activists continue to use misleading satellite images of the wetlands to attempt to damage our reputation.

"Like those other Queensland companies we ask to be judged on the facts only and we continue to act with integrity and honesty and protect the environment we operate in."

Ends