



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

22 March, 2010

### **Xstrata Coal to seek community input for proposed coal export terminal at Balaclava Island**

Xstrata Coal Queensland (XCQ) has commenced a new series of community and stakeholder consultation evenings to discuss the proposed new coal terminal at Balaclava Island, north of Gladstone.

Balaclava Island was determined as the preferred site for the proposed 35 million-tonne coal export terminal in late 2009, following initial stakeholder consultations, environmental investigations, engineering assessments and consideration of Port Alma.

"We have benefitted from our environmental investigations and the productive involvement of our stakeholder communities," XCQ Balaclava Island Coal Export Terminal Project Manager Jason Pope said.

"More than 100 people and interest groups attended our previous consultation meetings, and we have carefully considered their views and the environmental issues in our planning."

The proposed siting and construction of the Balaclava Island Coal Export Terminal will be the subject of community and stakeholder consultation on 23 and 24 March at the Marmor Community Hall, from 7pm to 9pm each evening.

XCQ invites interested groups and community members to register their interest to attend via the project's free-call hotline on 1800 145 265 or by returning prepaid invitations that were part of a project newsletter recently distributed to local residents.

The consultation evenings will provide an opportunity to meet with the project team, learn about the proposed project, ask questions and raise issues.

"We are committed to providing the communities surrounding our operations with the opportunity to discuss this important project," Mr. Pope said.

"We take our responsibility for the communities in which we operate and the local environment very seriously."

The project consultation activities form part of XCQ's ongoing engagement with interested communities. Results from the feedback received will be incorporated into a comprehensive report summarising consultation activities and findings, which XCQ hopes to release for public comment at the end of 2010.

The final report will form part of the information to be considered by government agencies in determining approvals for the project under State and Federal legislation.

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For further media information:

James Rickards  
Communications Manager  
Xstrata Coal  
Phone: 02 9253 6789  
Mobile: 0419 731 371  
Email: [jrickards@xstratacoal.com](mailto:jrickards@xstratacoal.com)

**Website: [balaclavaislandcoal.com.au](http://balaclavaislandcoal.com.au)**