



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

7 May, 2010

### **Balaclava Island Coal Terminal receives State Significant Project status**

Xstrata Coal ("Xstrata") today welcomed the Queensland Coordinator General's declaration of 'State Significant Project' status for the Balaclava Island Coal Export Terminal project.

The proposed 35 million tonnes per annum coal export terminal at Balaclava Island, 40km north of Gladstone, is designed to address Queensland port capacity restrictions as new coal operations throughout the southern Bowen and Surat Basins are developed.

"We are encouraged by today's announcement from the Queensland Government and continue to undertake extensive environmental and engineering studies to determine the feasibility of the proposed Balaclava Island Coal Terminal project," said Xstrata Coal Chief Executive Peter Freyberg.

"If approved, the proposed Balaclava Island Coal Terminal has the potential to provide significant new employment and capital investment opportunities for the Rockhampton and Gladstone regions."

Pre-feasibility studies for the project commenced in late 2008, including environmental assessments, engineering studies and geotechnical investigations. Xstrata continues to implement a series of community consultation sessions with local stakeholders throughout the pre-feasibility process.

## **ENDS**

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