



**INDUSTRIAL MONSTER THREATENS KEPPEL BAY -
IS XSTRATA A TROJAN HORSE FOR GPC?**

A good roll up to a community meeting last night indicated the strength of concern about the proposed Balaclava Island Coal Export Terminal. Xstrata called the meeting at Emu Park to explain their plans for a new coal port at the mouth of the Fitzroy River 50 km SE of Rockhampton. There was standing room only with about 250 people packing the hall.

Questions were asked about the whole project including - the effects of dredging, the impacts on fishing areas, restrictions to boating because of shipping traffic, coal dust and environmental impacts.

Capricorn Conservation Council (CCC) holds grave fears for the survival of the Snubfin dolphin, from this and other proposed developments. There is only one population of about 80 Australian Snubfin Dolphin in the mouth of the Fitzroy River. "This dolphin is vulnerable and will be pushed towards extinction by dredging and shipping activity. Once it is gone, it is gone forever." said CCC spokesman Ian Herbert

The local community is just beginning to understand that the Xstrata proposal is only the start of a number of major developments in the area. CCC is concerned about the cumulative impacts of at least four major developments, of which Xstrata's port is just the first project. The second project is "Fitzroy Terminal" which proposes to load coal onto barges in Raglan Creek and then trans-ship to big ships at four sites off the NE end of Curtis Island. The third project is Gladstone Port Corporation's (GPC) proposal to expand the Balaclava Island port from two berths to eight (8) berths, including widening the causeway across the tidal mudflats from 50 m to 200 m. The fourth project is GPC's plans for additional major port facilities on the NW end of Curtis Island.

While Xstrata could not answer any questions about these other developments, we believe that their proposal is just the tip of the iceberg, and will lead to the complete industrialisation of the Fitzroy River delta and southern Keppel Bay.

Since this whole area is controlled by GPC we are surprised they are making no attempt to inform the community of their long term plans for the area. We call on GPC and Fitzroy Terminal Project Pty Ltd to hold a similar public forum so that they can answer questions about the future industrialisation of the Fitzroy River delta and southern Keppel Bay.