

Capricorn Conservation Council Inc.

ABN: 14 846 165 788

Haigh Park, Livermore Street
P.O. Box 4011
Rockhampton Qld 4700

Phone: (07) 4927 8644
Fax: (07) 4927 8279
E-Mail: ccc@cqnet.com.au

MEDIA RELEASE – 30 Dec 2008 2008 Un-Environmental Awards

Capricorn Conservation Council has announced the un-environmental awards for Central Qld.

The “In Your Dreams” award to Waratah Coal for thinking that they could put a coal loader in the environmentally significant Byfield/Shoalwater Bay area.

The “Gross Incompetence” Award was a tie between EPA for the Fitzroy River water quality debacle, and Tower Holdings not only for proposing an over-the-top development on Lot 21 of Great Keppel Island but also for achieving community-wide opposition to their plans.

Capricorn Conservation Council president, Ian Herbert, said that 2008 has seen some major activity on a number of environmental issues in the region.

The biggest issues were -

- (1) The proposed coal port in the Shoalwater Bay/Byfield area where Waratah Coal, Anna Bligh and Brad Carter showed complete disregard for the environment. We thank Anna Bligh for giving us a free kick on this one. Her support for this ill-conceived project led to the public outcry and the Yeppoon Town Hall meeting where hundreds of people came to protest. Waratah also intend to open up a whole new basin, the Galilee Basin, at a time when we should be thinking about alternatives to expansion of the polluting coal industry.
- (2) The pumping out of the flooded pits at Ensham Mine following the floods in February was a case of the Environmental Protection Agency failing to protect the environment.
- (3) Gladstone Air Quality problems. A public meeting in Gladstone earlier this year attracted 600 people angry with the government and industry for continued lack of action to prevent air pollution in the city.
- (4) Protection of Byfield National Park from destructive four wheel driving. National Parks need our full protection and are not the place for 4wd hoons.

In the long term however the really big issue is climate change, which threatens the survival of the Great Barrier Reef and our local natural environment in its current form. Central Queensland must look beyond exporting coal if it wants a sustainable future. While mine workers and associated communities are getting good money in the short term, the burning of coal is directly contributing to climate change.