



## Gladstone Conservation Council Inc.

Queensland, Australia.  
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31<sup>st</sup> July 2014

### Bulk material transfers in World Heritage water

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To: Hon Andrew Powell MP

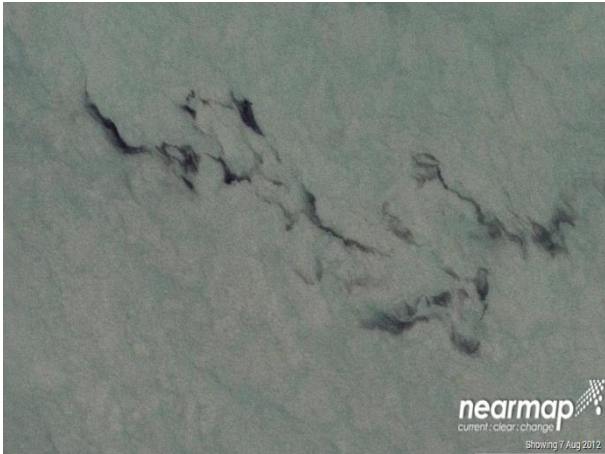
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection

GPO Box 2454, Brisbane QLD 4001

[Environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:Environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au)

Andrew,

At the community cabinet held in Gladstone 25-26 August 2013, GCC made a representation to you where we explicitly dealt with coal dust fugitive emissions. The presentation included images of

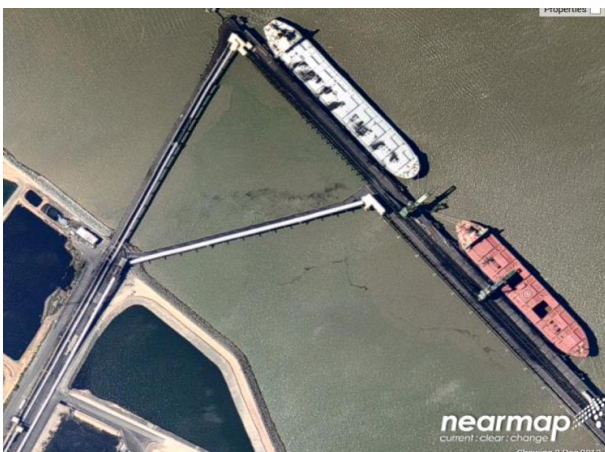


black anomalous ooze in the waters of Gladstone harbour. I made the point that this was reported to the local EHP office on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

The feedback from EHP on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2012 was **Black material in water near the Wiggins Island dredging pipeline** – from the image this would appear to be coal fines, more likely washed into the area from RG Tanna Coal Wharf. We have had a few incidents in recent times to which compliance action is underway. Further investigations are continuing.

At the community cabinet you had Reuben Carlos, EHP Executive Director of the Central Region in tow. Reuben tried to assert that this issue had passed and that there would be no evidence of this kind out there anymore. I could not confirm this because on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2012 access to Nearmap was hidden behind a \$6450 paywall despite Nearmap's claim of working under creative commons licence structures.

Subsequently Nearmap have moderated their fees and GCC have taken advantage of a special offer to access the site.



This image shows coal dust in the water at the RG Tanna Coal Wharf on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013.

To respond to Reuben, no, it has not changed.



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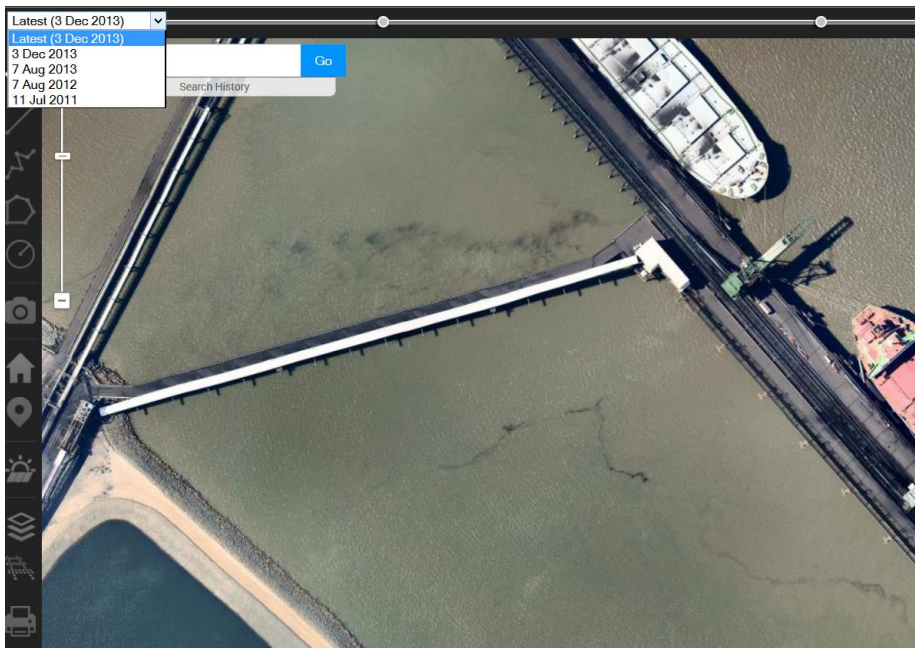
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Aerial photography available via Nearmap for the Gladstone port area appear to be restricted to 4 snapshots dated between 11<sup>th</sup> July 2011 and 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013





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Gladstone prides itself a “world class” port, using “world’s best practice” coal port operations.

Every available Nearnmap data set contains clear evidence of substantial fugitive coal spills. Bayesian statistics suggests this is modus operandi for the coal loading facility in Gladstone.

We have assurances that conditions on approvals will safeguard the environment yet we see here ongoing atrocious levels of coal contamination happening for years in full knowledge of the authorities at all levels of government.

Why should we believe you that coal transfers can be done safely out at sea when this cannot be done from shore in full view of the public?

Please don’t treat us as fools and try to tell us that this time it will be different because you are imposing “strict” conditions. Please do your job as minister for the environment, protect it for once.

Sincerely,

Jan Arens

President – Gladstone Conservation Council.