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Ship grounded off Keppel Island - A sign of things to come

Capricorn Conservation Council is horrified that a Chinese coal carrier has run aground near Great Keppel Island. “We can be certain that this is a sign of things to come” said CCC spokesman Ian Herbert. “A year ago - Moreton Island, yesterday - Great Keppel Island, next year - who knows where? Who knows what damage will be done to our local coral reefs and marine animals from the oil spill from the ship? We are outraged that no marine pilot is required on ships between Gladstone and Cairns.”

There is going to be an explosion in the number of ships transporting coal and LNG within the next decade, from both Gladstone and Rockhampton. This will increase the likelihood of similar events.

The State Government has been acting like snake oil salesmen spruiking the riches to be made from exporting LNG and more coal. However they fail to acknowledge the environmental harm that will be caused both on land and sea by these industries. As a result the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process has become a joke.

“We are now faced with a ridiculous proposal to build a brand new coal port on Balaclava Island at the mouth of the Fitzroy River. Ships from this port will have to navigate the treacherously shallow waters of Keppel Bay at the mouth of the Fitzroy River. What hope is there for the future survival of local coral reefs fringing the Keppel Bay Islands?” said Mr Herbert

“Who will be paying for the clean up this time? Last year the state government had to go cap in hand to the company that polluted Moreton Island. It is time that the industry, not the taxpayer, foots the bill for the full cost of the clean up.”
