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## Media Release

### **Rolleston Coal Mine, a test case for new flood-discharge regulations**

Capricorn Conservation Council (CCC) has growing concerns over what is occurring at Xstrata's flooded Rolleston Coal Mine following the deluge of rain received in the Comet Catchment over the last two weeks. According to CCC, the mine has at least one burst dam and flooded pits which are being pumped into Bootees Creek. Although one aerial photo obtained by CCC clearly shows a deep channel has been cut by an excavator to allow faster discharge of flood water. This disturbing situation comes hot on the heels of assurances given in Rockhampton very recently by Minister Kate Jones that mine water discharges were within acceptable limits.

CCC spokesperson, Janet Barrett, says, 'The Rolleston Mine flood is a real test case for how well the new mine discharge regulations are working. However the mine has not responded to our enquiries and what's really disappointing is that the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) aren't keeping the public informed at all. They need to correct this lack of transparency and quickly.'

Public transparency was a big message to come from the Ensham Mine flood incident only two years ago. CCC believes recommendations from the Hart Report and Cumulative Impact Study reinforce the fact that the community is entitled to know what is going on with both water quality and water discharge quantity especially when it's impacted by mining operations.

Compounding the current Rolleston Mine flood is a fish kill downstream of the mine which CCC reported to DERM more than 10 days ago, with test results still not available to the public. 'The fish kill in Albinia National Park may turn out to be unrelated to mine

contamination but the point is, DERM's water quality testing process is simply not quick enough. ' says Ms Barrett.

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