

## Threatened Species and Ecological Communities Inquiry

My name is Kate. I grew up in Yeppoon in Central Qld. My parents chose this area for its natural beauty. 2 years ago, after many years of travel I have moved back for the same reason.

This area has so much natural beauty to speak of. For me, it's the marine life that really attracts me. But I have to say I'm scared.

The State Government doesn't seem to have any real idea of what they're dealing with and ultimately gambling.

The Gladstone Harbour and its effects on our reef is shocking. The State Government is putting income well before the environment. What they don't seem to understand is that the coal won't be there forever, but if they look after the reef and marine life, it will be there to provide income through tourism for as long as they protect it.

Peak Island is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most important breeding ground for the Flatback Sea Turtle in the world and this is exactly where the State Government is planning to park coal barges. Peak Island is a pink zone and yet The State Gov. thinks that they can have major industrial development and activity right beside it without any ill effects.

There is also the issue of the snub fin dolphin. As I understand it, they exist only in the Fitzroy Delta and were discovered in 2005. There is a population of around 70 of these unique creatures the State Government is marching ahead with the idea of major coal port developments in the Fitzroy Delta.

The State Government is not doing a good enough job of protecting our environment. All they want is fast cash at whatever expense. Sure they talk the talk and say we need balance between growth and environmental protection, but at the end of the day, they are empty words.

The State Government needs to do much much better! We need the Federal Government to step in on behalf of the whole of Australia and say 'our reef is more important than your coal'.

Better protection for our environment please! Much better protection!