



**EDO** Qld.

Environmental Defenders Office

*Using the law to protect  
our environment.*

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## CHALLENGE TO WANDOAN COAL MINE LAUNCHED

On Friday 25th February, 2011, Friends of the Earth Brisbane lodged an objection against a massive open cut coal mine proposed by Xstrata Coal<sup>1</sup> for west of Wandoan in Southern Queensland.

EDO Qld and barrister Dr Chris McGrath are representing Friends of the Earth Brisbane in a “David and Goliath” battle that needs to be won.

Friend of the Earth Brisbane spokesperson Dr John Mackenzie said today:

“The mining and burning of this coal, whether used domestically or overseas, will create absolutely massive greenhouse gas emissions of 1.3 billion carbon dioxide equivalents over its life. This is not up for dispute – it’s clearly stated in the Environmental Impact Assessment statement.

“Approval of this lease and environmental authority will contribute to significant and irreversible damage to Queensland’s iconic natural heritage, like the Great Barrier Reef and the Wet Tropics, which will impact negatively on our economy and employment, especially in regions that rely on tourism.”

“But the more pressing issue concerns the contribution that this mine will make to the frequency and severity of extreme weather events. Queensland is still reeling from the recently experienced severe storms, cyclones and floods. We have only just begun to assess the costs of these events in economic terms.”

“Severe storms and freakish weather events such as the 2011 Brisbane Floods and severe tropical cyclone Yasi are expected to become more frequent due to warmer ocean waters and the warmer atmosphere caused by human caused climate change, thereby damaging Queensland’s infrastructure, cities and towns.”

Environmental Defenders office solicitor Jo-Anne Bragg said today:

“It’s a David and Goliath battle against major mining interests.”

“Our small team is proud to support Friends of the Earth Brisbane to make this objection, helping to point the need to transition to an economy based on renewable energy, rather than approving another massive coal mine.”

EDO also assisted local Wandoan residents to object on the basis that open cut coal mining may occur as close as 2km from the centre of Wandoan, which brings reasonable expectations their lives will be disturbed by noise and dust.

The objection was lodged with the Mining Registrar at Dalby and will be heard before the Queensland Land Court at a date to be fixed.

**For more information, contact EDO Qld. [edoqld@edo.org.au](mailto:edoqld@edo.org.au)**

**TO support EDOs climate change work, please go to [www.givenow.com.au/edo](http://www.givenow.com.au/edo)**

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<sup>1</sup> The applicants for the mining lease and environmental authority are Xstrata Coal Queensland Pty Ltd (ACN 69 098 156 702) ICRA Wandoan Pty Ltd (ACN 48 106 260 619) and Sumisho Coal Australia Pty Ltd (ACN 30 061 524 249).