



FRIDAY ENVIRONMENT FORUM

NPA Environment Centre

28 April

A mining threat to the Great Sandy Strait!

This week at Friday Environment Forum – April 28 – *Julie Devine and Vicki Perrin of Lock the Gate Alliance and Dr Tanzi Smith of Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee* will be guest speakers. They will explain **Lock the Gate's** mission to empower communities wishing to protect Australia's natural, cultural and agricultural communities from inappropriate mining.

Of utmost concern for the health of this region is the proposed New Hope Coal open cut coal mine on the edge of the Susan River, a tributary to the Mary River that flows directly into the Great Sandy Strait. The RAMSAR listed wetlands located on the edge of the estuary and are at high risk of being contaminated should this mine proceed.

The Colton mine would be the first of its kind in Queensland, being so close to an estuarine river system. The likely consequences for this pristine expanse of coastline should the mine proceed will also be outlined. "The proposed Colton coal mine would discharge almost a billion litres of contaminated waste water a year directly into the Mary River which flows into the Great Sandy Strait..." writes Dr Smith. "There is no doubt that this coal mine is likely to have a significant impact on the Great Sandy Strait..." she said.

Great Sandy Strait is a sand passage estuary between the Queensland mainland near Maryborough and the World Heritage-listed Fraser Island. It is an outstanding example of a sand passage estuary in a relatively undisturbed state.

Large, well developed expanses of sand and mud flats, salt flats, mangroves and seagrass beds are widespread along the Strait providing an exceptionally important feeding ground for migratory shorebirds. It is also important for a wide range of other birds, marine fish, crustaceans, dugong, sea turtles, dolphins and migrating Humpback whales..

Join the audience on **Friday April 28** at the Environment Centre, 5 Wallace Drive, Noosaville to be informed about this proposed development. Coffee is available from 10am and the forum commences at 10.30am. For those interested in an interpretive birding walk before the forum, meet Valda in the Environment Centre car park at 8.30am.

All welcome.



Dolphins in Great Sandy Strait