



# MEDIA RELEASE

## DR CRAIG EMERSON

Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy  
Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs  
Minister Assisting the Finance Minister on Deregulation

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### **XSTRATA CAMPAIGN FALLING APART AS MORE FACTS COME TO LIGHT**

Xstrata is playing games with the community of Wandoan, with revelations that the company has raised the possibility of court action if landowners in the mine's lease area refuse to sell, Small Business Minister Craig Emerson said today.

On 3 June, Xstrata announced it was suspending expenditure on the Wandoan thermal coal project in Queensland.

"After announcing just two weeks ago that it was suspending the Wandoan project, Xstrata has now held a meeting with local landowners in which it is reported as saying it is pushing ahead with obtaining a mining lease from the state government and would make new offers to purchase land," Dr Emerson said.

"Xstrata is making statements about suspending its projects, while at the same time holding community meetings where it appears landowners are being told that offers will continue to be made to buy land.

"Xstrata also appears to be contradicting its previous statements by apparently telling landowners at the meeting that, if it couldn't reach purchase agreements with them, it would have to take court action although that was not its preference.

"If Xstrata really is suspending its Wandoan project, then there is absolutely no need for it to continue to pursue landowners in the courts.

"Xstrata needs to come clean and tell the Australian public exactly what it is doing at Wandoan," Dr Emerson said.

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