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Taken during a Richards Bay Clean Air Association site visit, a heavy truck kicks up coal dust near the IDZ on Medway Road
Sandy Camminga

About-turn!

Bay port bans dust-spewing coal trucks from harbour east gate access after public outcry

Dave Savides

FACING escalating anger from Richards Bay residents, Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) finally succumbed on Tuesday, banning coal-laden trucks from entering or exiting the Port of Richards Bay's east gate via Medway Road. The unofficial 'anti-coal coalition',

comprising residents, businesses, sport bodies, environmentalists, community groups, motorists and other voices – including the Richards Bay Clean Association (RBCAA) and City of uMhlathuze – have steadily piled the pressure on TNPA, forcing the State-run entity to do an about-turn. And while it will no doubt upset

those in the trucking industry, the port had no other option in the wake of the mass destruction of infrastructure; rutted and ruined John Ross highway, Medway and other roads, and general unhygienic and unhealthy conditions.

Sick (literally) and tired of coal dust and sludge - in places over

half a metre deep - plus dirty homes, cars, yards and lungs, the people have said 'enough is enough', leaving TNPA no room to manoeuvre.

Continued on page 3

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