

# HANCOCK SEEKING RAIL CORRIDOR LAND TO PORT

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Work has begun to secure a 500km land corridor for a potential new rail project which could move bulk coal from Hancock's Alpha Coal mine to Abbot Point.

Infrastructure and Planning Minister Stirling Hinchcliffe said landowners and residents who would be directly affected by Hancock Coal Pty Ltd's proposed rail corridor had been invited to have their say.

The proposed rail and two proposed coal mines in the Galilee Basin could inject billions of dollars into the Queensland economy and generate an estimated 8600 jobs.

Hancock Coal Pty Ltd is proposing a rail corridor for the construction of a standard gauge, stand alone railway line and ancillary facilities. They would be designed to transport bulk coal from the Alpha Coal mine to the western boundary of the Abbot Point State Development Area.

"Hancock's final decision to develop the Alpha Coal project is expected later this year, after the completion of a bankable feasibility study—and is subject to obtaining all government approvals," Mr Hinchcliffe said.

**“If the projects were to proceed, Hancock would create the biggest thermal coal mine complex in Australia with annual exports at full production of 60 million tonnes of good quality, low ash, low gas and low sulphur coal,” he said.**

**Hancock has applied to the Coordinator-General Colin Jensen to have the rail corridor of the project assessed as an infrastructure facility of significance.**

**Mr Jensen said he was inviting written comment from people who could be directly affected by the area under investigation, until 5pm on March 22.**

**“The rail corridor which runs from Hancock’s proposed Alpha Coal mine in the Galilee Basin to the Abbot Point State Development Area, is based on Hancock’s preferred alignment,” he said.**

**“The route is being investigated by Hancock and a final alignment will be determined during further assessments, such as detailed, onsite topographic studies.”**