

NORTHERN MISSING LINK PROJECT SEEKING 800 WORKERS

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Queensland Rail is on the hunt for 800 more workers in the region to help build the \$1.1 billion Goonyella to Abbot Point Expansion Project (GAP).

In State Parliament yesterday, Treasurer Andrew Fraser said the project, which is set to start on site near Glenden and Bowen in early May, would provide plenty of opportunities for skilled workers in the region.

“Queensland’s coal exports are forecast to double by 2030, meaning more jobs for QR and the new QR National, not less,” he said. “The GAP project, which includes the Northern Missing Link, is great for QR and also great for the local communities. It will deliver employment and business opportunities in these regions and also inject money into local economies”.

Mr Fraser said the project includes the 69km Northern Missing Link, which will connect the Goonyella coal rail system to the Newlands rail system, as well as upgrades to the Newlands system.

“The GAP project will increase rail capacity and is planned to enable our customers with mines along the Newlands and Goonyella rail systems to export up to 50 million tonnes of coal per annum via the Abbot Point Coal Terminal”, he said.

“These 800 jobs are additional to the 600 job vacancies across all QR businesses at the moment.”

QR Network executive general manager Michael Carter said the GAP project was one of QR’s largest-ever infrastructure projects.

“To deliver this project by early 2012, we need workers with a wide variety of skills ranging from labourers, concreters, surveyors and plant operators to engineering and administrative staff.

“In addition to those roles directly involved in delivering the project, we estimate that approximately 2750 indirect local jobs will be created in industries such as hospitality, manufacturing and equipment and material supplies.

“We are committed to supporting the communities where we operate. Wherever possible, we will source construction materials and other goods and services from those local communities.”

Mr Carter said local people interested in finding out about employment or business opportunities on the GAP project could attend a Bowen information session today from 4pm-8pm at the Queens Beach Motor Hotel.