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— QLD Business —

Court win for GVK-Hancock Alpha megamine in central Queensland

John McCarthy, The Courier-Mail

April 8, 2017 12:00am

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THE mining industry has won a key victory against activists, with the High Court ruling it would not hear an appeal against the approval of the GVK-Hancock Alpha megamine in central Queensland.

The Alpha project, part-owned by billionaire Gina Rinehart, has been in the approval process for nine years.

“This has been a project of state significance since 2008 and so here we are in 2017 and it clearly shows that the environmental activists have the ability to hold up projects and seem to have more power than any premier in our state,” spokesman Josh Euler said.

“We have three successive governments that wanted to open the Galilee Basin,” he said.

The environmental approval has been through the Land Court, the Supreme Court and the Queensland Court of Appeal.



📷 Gina Rinehart 's spokesman Josh Euler slammed the activists for holidng up the project.

The High Court action was taken by environmental group Coast and Country, led by Derec Davies, which argued the Environmental Planning Act should have considered the greenhouse emissions from burning the coal, even though that might occur in another country.

Mr Davies said he was disappointed by the decision but would continue the fight.

“It’s quite clear the legislation is not capable of dealing with climate change issues at the moment and we look forward to a day when emissions from coal mines and other fossil fuels are clearly in the public realm of decision making for Ministers to refuse projects,” he said.

Queensland Resources Council chief executive Ian Macfarlane said Coast and Country, through the taxpayer-funded Environmental Defenders Office, had repeatedly failed in their combined attempts to argue that a coal mine in Queensland would increase global emissions.

“The activists’ tactics mean that the only jobs being created are for lawyers,” he said.

“The activists don’t ever expect to be successful with their layer after layer of appeals. Their interest is only in further delaying projects from delivering real construction and production

jobs. And don't forget, last year WikiLeaks revealed that Australian green activists have morphed into foreign-funded radical activists."