



The GVK-Hancock Alpha Coal Project, which would be developed south-west of Mackay, has been in the approval process for almost a decade. PHOTO: DAYATRHV

# Big win for coal project

MINING INDUSTRY WINS COURT BATTLE HOLDING UP OPEN-CUT COAL, RAILWAY PROJECT

THE mining industry has won a key court battle holding up the huge GVK-Hancock Alpha Coal Project south-west of Mackay, which would create thousands of jobs.

The proposed 32mtpa open-cut coal mine and railway project in the Galilee Basin – partly owned by billionaire Gina Rinehart – would cost about \$6.9b to develop.

At least 4000 workers would be employed during construction with another 2000 needed for ongoing operations. The project has been in the approval process for about nine years, going through the Land Court, the Supreme Court and the Queensland Court of Appeal.

Environmental group Coast and Country, led by Derec Davies, had taken High Court action, arguing the Environmental Planning Act needed to consider emissions from burning coal, even if it happened in another country. But the High Court ruled an appeal would not be heard.

Queensland Resources Council chief Ian Macfarlane welcomed the decision and said Coast and Country, through the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO), had "repeatedly failed in their combined attempts to argue that a coal mine in

Queensland would increase global emissions".

He said the argument was the equivalent to activists demanding Saudi Arabia take responsibility for exhaust emissions from Australian cars running Saudi oil. "This is just one in a long line of anti-coal activists' attempts to delay jobs and economic growth to Queensland, while pretending that a refusal to supply our coal will mean that countries like India will not simply source their coal from elsewhere," he said.

In a statement, the EDO thanked its client, supporters, staff and barristers.





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PHOTO: DAYATRHW