

## North Galilee Basin rail line receives Federal green light

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**The North Galilee Basin Rail project has received approval from Federal Environment Minister Greg Hunt, with 23 conditions.**

The 310-kilometre rail line will run from the Carmichael Coal Mine and Rail Project, west of Moranbah, to the port of Abbot Point, near Bowen in North Queensland.

Indian mining company Adani plans to spend \$2.2 billion building the 100-metre-wide corridor, which will have a 100-million-tonne carrying capacity per year.

The Federal Government expects the project will create about 2,000 construction jobs and 370 operational jobs, and the Queensland Government says the construction phase will inject nearly \$800 million into the local economy.

Landholders expressed concern during the approval process about how the rail line will affect flooding in the area, as it traverses flood plains.

There are 16 property owners affected by the line.

When the ABC contacted landholders this morning, some were still to be told of the projects' federal approval.

A spokesperson for Environment minister Greg Hunt, says in a statement, that the proposal underwent rigorous assessment to ensure that all matters of national environmental significance are protected.

"The strict conditions that have been put in place will ensure that there is an overall net benefit for the environment," the spokesperson says.

Adani Mining CEO and Country Head Jeyakumar Janakaraj says the approval is a significant milestone for the company.

"Our long term future with Queensland will mean more than 10,000 jobs, \$22 billion in taxes and royalties to the state, and by helping deliver energy security, will light the lives of millions of Indians", Mr Janakaraj said.

As part of the conditions that come with the approval, Adani will have to develop a biodiversity offset strategy.

This will have to be submitted at least two months before the rail line's construction begins.

The mining company will have to publish a compliance report on their website every 12 months, along with all management plans, reports and strategies.

It also has to comply with disturbance limits to protect threatened species including the black throated finch, koalas, natural grasslands and black ironbox, and will have to use fauna spotters prior to and during any clearing.

Adani must begin construction within five years. After that, the company will have to get written approval from the Environment Minister.

**Topics:** mining-industry, mining-environmental-issues, mining-rural, rail-transport, coal, moranbah-4744

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**PHOTO:** Indian mining company Adani has received federal approval for its North Galilee Rail project, with 23 conditions. The rail line will have a carrying capacity of 100 million tonnes per year. (ABC News: Nic MacBean)

**MAP:** Moranbah 4744