

Adani Group gets Queensland Govt nod for \$15.5-billion coal project in Australia

Now, company has to move Federal Govt of Australia for final green clearance

OUR BUREAU

Ahmedabad, May 8

The Government of Australia's Queensland province on Thursday approved the Adani Group's A\$16.5-billion (\$15.46-billion) coal mine development project in the Galilee Basin.

This will enable the company move to the next stage, obtaining final environmental approval from the Federal Government of Australia, the Adani Group said on Thursday.

The Carmichael coalmine and railway project is expected to produce up to 60 million tonnes of coal annually, to be transport-

ed on a 190-km rail line to the Port of Abbot Point's coal terminal, which also Adani owns.

The company will also have to obtain a mining lease and water licence from the environmental authority.

Local development

Commenting on the approval, Group Chairman Gautam Adani said the company would ensure the involvement of local and regional communities, which would share in the economic benefits of the project.

One of the largest of its kind in the world, the Carmichael

MINING DOWN UNDER

Project Highlights

- Untapped Galilee Basin in central Queensland is the largest coal mine in Australia and one of the biggest in the world
- Mine will produce 60 million tonnes a year of thermal coal used in power stations
- Project also includes a 189-km rail line
- Can create 2,500 construction and 3,900 operational jobs

Key Challenges

- Getting coal out of Galilee Basin, which is nearly 500 km from any port, can be a loss-making prospect if thermal coal prices stay where they are, below \$75 a tonne.
- Green groups have challenged an expansion plan of Abbot Point—the port Adani owns and plans to use to get coal out—that will lead to dumping of 3 million cubic metres of sand near the eco-sensitive Great Barrier Reef

Adani Group in 2013

Revenues \$ 8.7 billion

Net income \$ 297 million

Total assets \$ 18.1 billion

Employees 10,400



Gautam Adani

project is expected to create nearly 6,500 jobs and infrastructure facilities such as a coal

handling and processing plant, water supply, an airport and accommodation for workers.

Welcoming the decision, Adani said development of Australia's Galilee Basin was central to the economic growth of Queensland and Australia.

Create jobs

"We remain committed to delivering this multi-billion dollar project, with world class standards, which will directly employ thousands of people during construction and over the operational period."

The company will develop the Carmichael coal mine with related rail and port infrastructure.

Since 2011, the Adanis have owned the coal export terminal at the Port of Abbot Point, Adani added.