



Fact Sheet

About the BHP Billiton Goonyella to Abbot Point Rail Project



About the Project

The BHP Billiton Goonyella to Abbot Point Rail Project (the Project) will involve the construction and operation of a dedicated BHP Billiton rail line and associated facilities from the Goonyella Mine complex in the northern Bowen Basin to the Port of Abbot Point, a distance of approximately 260km.

The Project Proponent is BHP Billiton MetCoal Holdings Pty Ltd, a member of the BHP Billiton Group (BHP Billiton).

Development of the proposed rail line has been identified as a key infrastructure requirement for BHP Billiton to meet its growth and export objectives for its Bowen Basin coal mine assets into the future. These assets are owned in joint ventures through BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance (BMA) and BHP Billiton Mitsui Coal (BMC).

The Project was declared a 'Significant Project' by Queensland's Coordinator-General in October 2011, for which an environmental impact assessment is required.

An investigation corridor has been identified during initial Project studies, extending northward from Moranbah, and bypassing the towns of Collinsville, Scottville, Bowen and Merinda.

BHP Billiton expects construction to commence by late 2013. The Company will seek to have the rail line operational by 2015/16.

The new rail line will create around 2500 new jobs during construction and 300-500 ongoing operational jobs.

To minimise impacts on landholders, BHP Billiton actively supports the concept of a common corridor for proponents of new rail lines from the Bowen Basin and Galilee Basin to the Port of Abbot Point, which would include a dedicated BHP Billiton rail line.

Community and Environment

BHP Billiton is proud to be a long-term community supporter and the largest employer in the Bowen Basin, directly employing over 13,000 permanent, temporary and contract employees. We are committed to ongoing development of the region.

The Project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process will assist in understanding potential social, economic, environmental, and cultural impacts of the proposed BHP Billiton rail line.

The BHP Billiton project team will work in close collaboration with landowners, communities, traditional owners, government agencies and other key stakeholders to fully investigate the proposed rail project and achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.

About BHP Billiton

BHP Billiton is the largest global exporter of coking coal. In the Bowen Basin, BHP Billiton owns interests in BHP Mitsubishi Alliance (BMA) and BHP Mitsui Coal (BMC), with a combined production capacity of approximately 60 million tonnes of coal per year.

Project Fast Facts

Proposed Location

- Proposed rail line from the Goonyella Mine complex to the Port of Abbot Point, for dedicated use by the BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance (BMA) and BHP Mitsui Coal (BMC)

Length

- Approximately 260km of rail

Capacity

- 60 million tonnes per annum

Other Support Infrastructure

- Yard maintenance facilities
- Construction laydown areas (temporary)
- Expansion at Port of Abbot Point
- Construction workforce accommodation villages (temporary)

Employment

- Around 2500 jobs during construction
- Around 300-500 ongoing operational jobs

Further Information

Additional information about the Project is available on our website at www.bhpbilliton.com/regulatoryinformation. We welcome your questions and feedback by:

- Phoning the BHP Billiton Goonyella to Abbot Point Rail Project freecall telephone number, 1800 108 807, between the hours of 8.30 am and 8 pm.
- Emailing enquiries2@bhpbilliton.com.
- Attending Community Information Sessions to be conducted throughout the EIS process. These sessions will be advertised on the project website and in local newspapers.