

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1792

asked on Wednesday, 12 October 2016

MR MILLAR ASKED THE MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES (HON DR A LYNHAM)—

QUESTION:

With reference to recent court decisions in favour of both the Adani and GVK Galilee Basin coal mines—

When will the Minister be able to give affected landholders certainty regarding the development and location of the necessary rail corridor from the Galilee Basin to Abbot Point?

ANSWER:

Regarding the rail corridors, their locations have been well defined and made publicly available since 2014. Even before that, proponents were working with individual landowners for some time on the planning of their rail lines.

The two rail corridors proposed by Adani and GVK are both contained within the Galilee Basin State Development Area which provides the necessary certainty to landholders. This state development area was declared in June 2014 to enable a coordinated approach to developing multi-user common rail corridors while minimising impacts on landholders and the environment.

The Galilee Basin State Development Area generally comprises two 500-metre-wide corridors – one rail corridor designed to service the central Galilee Basin and a second corridor to service the southern Galilee Basin.

Regarding the timing of projects, Adani has recently confirmed that construction of their project is targeted to begin in 2017. The government supports the significant boost to central and north Queensland, and to the state, that this \$21.7 billion investment would bring.

GVK Hancock has not made recent public statements about the timing of financial close for the projects. Government is working with GVK Hancock to facilitate their projects. However, ultimately the timing and commitment to the GVK projects are commercial decisions for GVK.