Cooking the Climate
Wrecking the Reef
The global impact of coal exports from Australia’s Galilee Basin

GREENPEACE
The Alpha Project test pit is the first coal mine in the Galilee Basin.

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Published in September 2012 by Greenpeace Australia Pacific
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Cover photo: Abbot Point coal terminal, with the Caley Valley Wetlands behind.
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Advanced plans are in place to build nine mega mines in one region of Queensland, Australia. Located in the Galilee Basin, five of these projects would each be larger than any coal mine currently operating in the country. If these go ahead, they could produce more coal than Australia currently exports. If the Galilee Basin were a country, the carbon dioxide produced from using this coal would make it the seventh dirtiest fossil fuel burner on the planet.

The Galilee Basin coal boom is not just one of the greatest ever environmental threats to Australia, its climate implications are global.
“This is the critical decade. Decisions we make from now to 2020 will determine the severity of the climate change our children and grandchildren experience. It is essential to transition to low emission development pathways if the world is to tackle climate change and achieve sustainable development.”
Introduction

At a time when the global scientific consensus indicates the world needs to shift away from climate damaging energy sources, Australia is embarking on a new coal rush at an unprecedented scale.

With massive expansion plans across Queensland and New South Wales, and emerging coal export proposals in Victoria and Western Australia, Australian coal exports could more than double over the next decade. The one focus of this coal rush is the untapped Galilee Basin in Central Queensland. There are plans to build nine mega coal mines in the Galilee Basin, five of which would be larger than any existing coal mine in Australia. One of these mines, the Alpha Coal Project, including its 495km rail line, has already been approved by the Federal and Queensland Governments. If the nine mines proceed as planned, emissions from burning the coal would be around 700 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) every year. Ranked against current CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel burning of the biggest polluting countries in the world, the CO₂ emissions from burning the coal mined in the Galilee Basin would make it the seventh largest emitter of CO₂ globally.

Determining a coal mine’s contribution to climate change is not a requirement of government environmental assessments. There is no legal mechanism to prevent development that represents an unacceptable lock-in of greenhouse pollution. Nor does Australia have to report the greenhouse emissions from burning the coal mined and exported here to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, because those emissions will be exported overseas. As a result, little consideration is given to the cumulative climate implications of Australian coal exports. This report attempts to shed light on this, focussing on the impact the Galilee Basin would have on global efforts to avoid dangerous climate change if its development proceeds, as well as on Australia’s own commitments to be part of a global agreement to do so.

Exploitation of the coal reserves in the Galilee Basin is incompatible with the internationally agreed goal of limiting global warming to below 2°C above pre-industrial temperatures. In fact, it would take us in precisely the opposite direction, releasing dangerously high levels of CO₂ emissions. It would undermine Australia’s commitment to combating climate change and put the future of one of the world’s greatest natural treasures – Australia’s Great Barrier Reef – in jeopardy.

Developing the Galilee Basin involves building nine new mega coal mines, hundreds of kilometres of rail infrastructure and new and expanded coal export ports in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. In addition to the contribution to global warming, each individual project is accompanied by a range of threats to local ecosystems, human health, farmland and industries. This report analyses some of the threats from individual projects, who is driving the projects, and the role the Queensland and Australian Governments play in their oversight.

At a time when the science could not be clearer on the need to reduce global carbon emissions, and when governments worldwide are shifting to a low-carbon economy, exploiting the Galilee Basin is a reckless proposition. It is imperative that the Galilee Basin coal reserves remain in the ground.
Scientists have tried to quantify the likely effects of different levels of global warming for people and weather patterns around the world. The last major assessment from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was the Fourth Assessment Report, completed in 2007. Work for the next report is currently underway, and is due to be completed in 2014.

The Fourth Assessment Report warned that CO₂ and other greenhouse gas pollution already in the atmosphere is likely to cause a contraction of snow cover area and a decrease in sea ice extent. It also warned that it is very likely global warming will increase the frequency of temperature extremes, heat waves and heavy precipitation and it’s likely it will increase the intensity of tropical cyclones. Many semi-arid areas like the Mediterranean Basin, western United States, southern Africa and north-eastern Brazil are expected to suffer a decrease in water resources due to climate change. In Australia and New Zealand,

“...a temperature of 4°C above pre-industrial levels would give an 85 per cent probability of initiating large-scale melt of the Greenland ice sheet, put 48 per cent of species at risk of extinction, and put 90 percent of coral reefs above critical limits for bleaching.”

Professor Ross Garnaut
Climate Change Review Update, 2011

Cooking the climate:
The current global outlook for climate change

Coal mining has already devastated the landscape in Queensland’s Bowen Basin. ©Greenpeace/Tom Jefferson
“It would be irresponsible to ignore these scientific warnings and just hope the problem will go away. It won’t.”

Australian Climate Change Minister Greg Combet, speech, University of Korea, April 2012

by 2030, “production from agriculture and forestry is projected to decline over much of southern and eastern Australia, and over parts of eastern New Zealand, due to increased drought and fire.”

According to Australia’s Climate Commission, there’s a significant risk that if global average temperatures rise above 2°C relative to pre-industrial levels, “much of the Great Barrier Reef will be converted to an algae-dominated ecosystem.”

Former Chief Scientist of the Australian Institute of Marine Science, Dr. Charlie Veron, has been frank in his assessment of the Reef’s future due to the combined impacts of global warming and ocean acidification, both driven by CO₂ pollution, stating that “The way it is looking at the moment, I would expect the Great Barrier Reef to be largely destroyed by mid-century if we do not drastically reduce carbon dioxide emissions in the very near future. About mid-century, ocean acidification will have affected all coral reefs around the globe.”

In July 2012, at an International Coral Reef Symposium held in Cairns, a consensus statement endorsed by 2000 scientists was released, which states that “The surface of the world’s oceans has warmed by 0.7°C, resulting in unprecedented coral bleaching and mortality events” and that by the end of this century, “CO₂ emissions at the current rate will warm sea surface temperatures by at least 2-3°C, raise sea-level by as much as 1.7 meters, reduce ocean pH from 8.1 to less than 7.9, and increase storm frequency and/or intensity. This combined change in temperature and ocean chemistry has not occurred since the last reef crisis 55 million years ago.”

However, the fate of the Reef is not yet sealed; we still have the opportunity to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

In December 2010, Australia and 193 other nations committed at the UN climate talks in Cancun, Mexico, to take action to keep the average global temperature rise below 2°C, and to consider whether even this degree of warming was too high, as our understanding of the extent and degree of climate change grows prior to the release of the next Assessment Report from the IPCC.

Limiting global warming to less than 2°C still carries significant risk. Based on the scientific research undertaken since the Fourth Assessment Report, small island states and least developed countries fear that warming greater than 1.5°C would mean their countries could not survive, threatening the lives and livelihoods of millions of people.

Despite a commitment to limit warming to less than 2°C, greenhouse gas emissions are increasing year on year and we are currently heading towards a global temperature increase of at least 3.5°C and potentially much more. Deep and immediate reductions in greenhouse gas pollution need to be made if we are to avert such a dangerous future.

So what does it mean for climate change if Australia embarks upon unprecedented coal mining in the Galilee Basin?
Current: 

Australia

Coal exports for the whole of Australia in 2010-2011:

283 mtpa

Proposed: 

Galilee Basin

Annual coal production capacity

Based on proponents' own figures for coal production

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mine</th>
<th>Full production (saleable coal mtpa)</th>
<th>Estimated CO₂ from combustion (mtpa)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alpha Coal mine</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>64.7</td>
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<td>Alpha North mine</td>
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<td>Alpha West mine</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>51.8</td>
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<td>Carmichael mine</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>128.4</td>
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<td>China First mine</td>
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<td>85.6</td>
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<td>China Stone mine</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>128.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Degulla Project</td>
<td>35 (est)</td>
<td>74.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kevin's Corner mine</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>57.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Galilee Coal Project</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>28.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>705.4</td>
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</table>

Table 1: Estimated maximum CO₂ emissions from combustion of the Galilee Basin mines' coal based on proponent information. See Appendix for details.
The climate implications of the Galilee Basin

There are plans in place to build nine mega mines in Queensland’s Galilee Basin. Five of these projects would each be larger than any coal mine currently operating in Australia. The proposed Carmichael and China Stone mines are each expected to produce 60 million tonnes a year at full capacity – roughly twice as much as the largest coal mine currently operating in Australia.

Impact on global climate commitments

Greenpeace used figures for coal production provided by the mine proponents to estimate the greenhouse gas emissions that would result from burning coal from the proposed mines. Analysing this contribution in the context of global commitments to avoid dangerous levels of global warming, and conservative estimates of how the world might achieve these goals, paints an alarming picture.

Based on the proponents’ own figures for coal production, these mines would have a projected combined production capacity of 330 million tonnes of coal per annum (mtpa). This figure is larger than the entire current coal export output of Australia, and would signify an unprecedented increase in the scale of coal mining.

Converting these coal production figures to greenhouse gas emissions, Greenpeace estimates that if all the proposed mines reached their estimated maximum production, the combustion of the coal from the Galilee Basin would result in additional CO₂ emissions of up to 705 million tonnes every year (see methodology in the Appendix).

Excluding emissions from land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF), in 2010 Australia emitted 401.8 million tonnes of CO₂. By comparison, annual emissions resulting from burning the coal from Galilee Basin mines at full production would be 176% of this total.

Comparing the potential CO₂ emissions from burning the coal mined from the Galilee Basin with the CO₂ currently produced from burning fossil fuels in countries around the world, reveals that the Galilee Basin would rank as the world’s seventh biggest contributor of CO₂ pollution from fossil fuel burning.
Proposed:

**Galilee Basin emissions**

Annual emissions from coal combustion if all the proposed mines reach their maximum production.

705 million tonnes of CO$_2$
Cooking the Climate Wrecking the Reef
The global impact of coal exports from Australia's Galilee Basin

Current: Australian emissions
In 2010, excluding emissions from land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF).

402 million tonnes of CO₂
If the Galilee Basin was fully developed today, it would be the world’s seventh biggest contributor of CO$_2$ pollution from fossil fuel burning.

The CO$_2$ that is likely to be produced each year from burning the coal mined in the Galilee Basin would be greater than the 2009 emissions of Canada or the UK.

Figure 1: The graph compares aggregated CO$_2$ emissions from proposed Galilee Basin mines to emissions from countries as a result of fuel combustion (sectoral approach) in 2009 as estimated by the International Energy Agency.
Comparison of annual CO₂ emissions from fuel combustion globally with the Galilee Basin mine proposals

This chart compares CO₂ emissions from burning the coal from individual and aggregated Galilee Basin mines to emissions from countries as a result of fuel combustion (sectoral approach) in 2009 as estimated by the IEA.10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region/Country/Economy</th>
<th>Region/Country/Economy</th>
<th>Region/Country/Economy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 People’s Rep. of China</td>
<td>6832</td>
<td>33 Venezuela</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 United States</td>
<td>5195</td>
<td>34 United Arab Emirates</td>
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<td>3 India</td>
<td>1586</td>
<td>35 Pakistan</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Russian Federation</td>
<td>1533</td>
<td>36 Carmichael Coal Mine</td>
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<td>5 Japan</td>
<td>1093</td>
<td>37 China Stone Project</td>
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<td>6 Germany</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>38 Vietnam</td>
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<td>7 Galilee Basin Total</td>
<td>705</td>
<td>39 Uzbekistan</td>
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<td>8 Islamic Rep. of Iran</td>
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<td>40 Czech Republic</td>
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<td>9 Canada</td>
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<td>12 Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>44 Greece</td>
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<td>13 Mexico</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>45 Alpha North</td>
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<td>14 Australia</td>
<td>395</td>
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<td>15 Italy</td>
<td>389</td>
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<td>16 Indonesia</td>
<td>376</td>
<td>48 Romania</td>
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<td>17 South Africa</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>49 Degulla Project</td>
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<td>18 France</td>
<td>354</td>
<td>50 Philippines</td>
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<td>19 Brazil</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>51 DPR of Korea</td>
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<td>20 Poland</td>
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<td>52 Chile</td>
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<td>21 Spain</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>53 Alpha Coal Project</td>
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<td>22 Ukraine</td>
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<td>54 Israel</td>
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<td>25 Thailand</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>57 Colombia</td>
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<td>26 Kazakhstan</td>
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<td>58 Syrian Arab Republic</td>
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<td>27 Netherlands</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>59 Kevin’s Corner</td>
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<td>28 Egypt</td>
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<td>60 Qatar</td>
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<td>29 GVK Total</td>
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<td>61 Finland</td>
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<td>30 Waratah Coal Total</td>
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<td>62 Portugal</td>
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<td>31 Argentina</td>
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<td>63 Alpha West</td>
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<td>32 Malaysia</td>
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<td>35 Pakistan</td>
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<td>36 Carmichael Coal Mine</td>
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<td>37 China Stone Project</td>
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<td>68 Denmark</td>
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<td>70 Hong Kong, China</td>
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<td>83 New Zealand</td>
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<td>85 Ecuador</td>
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<td>86 South Galilee Coal Project</td>
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<td>87 Cuba</td>
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<td>95 Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
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The Galilee Basin and global energy scenarios

The chief source of anthropogenic greenhouse gases worldwide is burning fossil fuels for energy. If greenhouse gas emissions are to be curbed and dangerous climate change prevented, wholesale reforms must be made to the energy sector globally. The International Energy Agency (IEA), supported by government bodies, international organisations and energy companies worldwide, produces annual models projecting energy generation and use under three main scenarios.11

The three scenarios are:

- **The Current Policies Scenario** charts the energy and emissions trajectory of current government policies – this scenario assumes no additional action on climate change is taken by governments.

- **The New Policies Scenario** charts the situation if recent policy commitments and plans announced by countries around the world to tackle issues such as energy insecurity, climate change and local pollution are implemented.

- **The IEA 450 Scenario** presents a global pathway to keeping long-term greenhouse gas concentrations below 450 parts per million (ppm). A target of 450ppm is often considered to be the threshold for avoiding ‘dangerous climate change’ by keeping average global warming to below 2°C. It is important to keep in mind that the 450ppm scenario provides only a 50% probability of limiting the global increase in average temperatures to 2°C, and that there is growing evidence that 2°C is a dangerous level of warming.

“On planned policies, rising fossil energy use will lead to irreversible and potentially catastrophic climate change.”

IEA World Energy Outlook 2011
The Galilee Basin at maximum production would produce more coal than the entire projected global increase in demand for coal for electricity generation until after 2030. By 2035. The scale of this cut highlights the dramatic reduction in coal burning that is required if we are to prevent dangerous climate change. Development of the Galilee Basin requires precisely the opposite – a substantial growth in coal-fired power generation and, consequently, of coal demand. Clearly, development of the Galilee Basin cannot occur if governments around the world take serious steps to prevent global temperatures rising by more than 2°C.

The IEA’s New Policies Scenario charts energy production and consumption based on the energy policy commitments that the world’s governments have already made. These are, as yet, insufficient to meet the agreed goal of limiting warming to below 2°C above pre-industrial temperatures. In fact, the IEA considers that these planned energy policies would result in greenhouse gas emission levels consistent with a long-term average temperature increase of more than 3.5°C.

Figure 3 shows the projected global increase in demand for coal for electricity generation under the New Policies Scenario, and the maximum coal production proposed for the Galilee Basin, calculated from information provided by the proponents of the mines. The Galilee Basin at maximum production would produce more coal than the entire projected global increase in demand for coal for electricity generation until after 2030. This raises serious questions about the commercial viability of the mines planned for the Galilee Basin.

Measured against the IEA projections of future coal demand, the exploitation of the coal reserves in the Galilee Basin would only be consistent with coal demand modelled by its Current Policies Scenario – a future where governments take no further action to limit greenhouse gas emissions and which the IEA predicts is consistent with an unacceptable 6°C or more of global warming.

The message from the IEA is that meeting the agreed goal of limiting global warming to below 2°C requires an international change in direction for energy production. The burning of coal for electricity generation needs to be substantially reduced. The Galilee Basin mines will only go ahead if world demand for coal continues to grow strongly, a scenario that would make the below 2°C target unattainable. The prospect that the Galilee Basin could go ahead and Australian coal exports could double compared to current levels relies on global coal consumption and greenhouse gas emissions heading in a direction consistent with 6°C of global warming. The exploitation of the coal reserves in the Galilee Basin is incompatible with global efforts and Australia’s commitment to prevent dangerous levels of climate change.
Impact on Australia’s climate commitments

The Conference of the Parties “…recognizes that deep cuts in global greenhouse gas emissions are required according to science, and as documented in the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, with a view to reducing global greenhouse gas emissions so as to hold the increase in global average temperature below 2°C above preindustrial levels;”

Cancun Agreements, 16th Conference of the Parties, UN Convention on Climate Change, December 2010 (UNFCCC 1/CP.16 (4))

Quantifying the CO₂ pollution of the proposed Galilee Basin coal mines exposes Australia’s policy conflict. Having joined world governments in committing to limit global average temperature rise to below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, Australia is now embarking on a course of action that is incompatible with this goal.

By opening up the coal reserves of the Galilee Basin, Australia would unlock hundreds of millions more tonnes of CO₂ pollution. Yet to meet the commitment to keep global warming below a 2°C increase, the world needs to drastically reduce coal use in the coming years. The Galilee Basin mines will only go ahead if world demand for coal continues to grow strongly, which will make the 2°C target unattainable.

By approving these mines and associated infrastructure, the Australian Government would be saying that this is acceptable. Far from acting to avoid dangerous climate change by restricting the global supply of coal, Australia may actually approve projects that will contribute to the threshold for dangerous climate change being breached. Against any acceptable scenario, exploiting the Galilee Basin is untenable.
Impacts on the Great Barrier Reef

One of the many disruptive impacts of climate change is the likely damage to Australia’s iconic Great Barrier Reef. Coral is extremely sensitive to even short periods of increased sea temperatures, resulting in coral bleaching. A rise in sea temperature of 2-3°C is predicted by the end of the century under some climate models where greenhouse gas emissions are not tightly controlled.12

Meanwhile, ocean acidification, a result of oceans absorbing increasing amounts of carbon dioxide that humans are releasing into the atmosphere, is reducing the ability of corals to produce skeletons. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) predicts that ocean acidification may be the most significant climate factor affecting the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem.13

But the threat to the Reef from the Galilee Basin is also more immediate. The Great Barrier Reef stands between the Queensland coal rush and the power stations of Asia. The quantity of coal to be mined from the Galilee Basin requires extensive new infrastructure to be built in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, including new port terminals at Abbot Point and Hay Point. This means millions more tonnes of sea floor dredging if the proposed plans proceed.14 All of these proposals are depicted on the map overleaf. This is in addition to other major new coal ports proposed to be built in the sensitive Fitzroy River Delta, at the southern end of Keppel Bay.

So urgent is the situation for the Reef, that in June 2012 the United Nations World Heritage Committee supported the recommendations of the UNESCO Monitoring Mission in March 2012, which urged Australia to “not permit any new port development or associated infrastructure outside of the existing and long-established major port areas within or adjoining the property, and to ensure that development is not permitted if it would impact individually or cumulatively on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.”15 (our emphasis)

The Committee also indicated that the Reef could be listed as “World Heritage in Danger” in 2013 if decisive action is not taken to manage unprecedented development pressures. The actions of the Australian and Queensland Governments in the next year may determine the future of this unique and precious ecosystem.
The Galilee Basin: Frontier of the coal rush

Mega mines in the Galilee Basin would need hundreds of kilometres of new rail lines to transport nearly 330 million tonnes of coal each year to ports in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. At what cost?

Adani Enterprises
Gautam Adani
Adani is a large Indian conglomerate with vertically integrated plans for coal mines, rail, ports and coal power stations in India.
- Carmichael mine (60 mtpa)
- Dudgeon Point coal terminal (180 mtpa)
- Rail line to Dudgeon Point
- T0 coal terminal at Abbot Point (65 mtpa)
- Existing T1 coal terminal at Abbot Point (50 mtpa)

Hancock / GVK
Gina Rinehart & Dr GVK Reddy
The most advanced project in the Galilee Basin is by Indian conglomerate GVK, which bought most of Gina Rinehart’s Galilee coal projects in 2011.
- Alpha coal mine (60 mtpa)
- Kevin’s Corner mine (27 mtpa)
- Alpha West mine (24 mtpa)
- Alpha rail line to Abbot Point
- T3 coal terminal at Abbot Point (50 mtpa)

Waratah Coal
Clive Palmer
Waratah Coal is owned by Clive Palmer’s company Mineralogy. The controversial China First mine is proposed to be built on top of Bimblebox Nature Refuge.
- China First mine (40 mtpa)
- Alpha North mine (40 mtpa)
- Rail line to Abbot Point
- Coal terminal at Abbot Point (240 mtpa)

Profits
83% of Australian mining is foreign owned. Most of the profits from mining the Galilee Basin would go overseas.

330 mtpa
Total maximum annual production of coal from proposed Galilee Basin mines if they proceed as proposed.

Bimblebox
Bimblebox Nature Refuge was protected by a conservation covenant nearly ten years ago. Now Waratah Coal is proposing to convert it to an open-cut coal mine.

FIFO
It is proposed most of the Galilee Basin mines use a predominantly or entirely “fly-in fly-out” workforce.

KEY
Proposed rail
Existing rail
Abbot Point Coal Terminals
There are at least four new coal terminals proposed for Abbot Point that would together multiply its output more than five-fold and would make it one of the biggest coal export ports in the world.

Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
The World Heritage Reef is one of the greatest natural treasures on the planet. Its majestic coral reefs support an astounding diversity of marine life, as well as 50,000 jobs.

Hay Point Coal Terminal
Dudgeon Point Coal Terminal
The proposed new Dudgeon Point coal terminal could bring an additional 2000 ships through an area recently identified as an important wintering area for humpback whales.

Coal dust
There are serious concerns over the health impacts of coal dust on local residents.

Balaclava Island Coal Terminal
Fitzroy Coal Terminal
The fragile and pristine Fitzroy Delta at the southern end of Keppel Bay is the site of two proposed new coal export ports – the Fitzroy Terminal project by the Mitchell Group, and Xstrata’s Balaclava Island Coal Terminal.

Gladstone Harbour
The impact of massive LNG developments in and around Gladstone Harbour prompted intervention from UNESCO and the World Heritage Committee. Authorities have yet to identify the cause of widespread disease of fish in the harbour, but local fishermen blame the suspension of sediments from dredging millions of cubic metres of sea floor to make way for the LNG and coal terminals. In addition to LNG developments on Curtis Island, Gladstone Harbour is the site of the 70 mtpa Wiggins Island coal export terminal, approved in 2008, and the proposed Yanvrun coal export terminal.

705 Mt CO₂ emissions
Total CO₂ emissions from burning coal mined from all proposed Galilee Basin mines at maximum production.

11,400
The potential total number of coal ships passing annually through the Reef if the proposed expansions, terminals and ports go ahead.
Open cut coal mining in the Bowen Basin, Central Queensland.
©Greenpeace/Tom Jefferson
The Galilee Basin: Individual projects and impacts

The coal mines

The scale of mining proposed in the Galilee Basin is unparalleled in Australia. Five of the nine proposed mines would be bigger than any existing mine in this country. The proposed mines are in various stages of development, and it is conceivable that given their scale and cost, not every mine will be built. Due to the size of each individual mine, however, the impact of even one mine would be considerable. If all nine mines go ahead, the impact on international, national and local environments would be devastating.

With tens of thousands of hectares of regional Australia earmarked for coal mines, habitat for hundreds of species would be permanently wiped out and significant ground and surface water resources altered or damaged.

Much of the Galilee Basin is subject to a native title claim on behalf of the Wangan and Jagalingou people. Given the scale of mining it seems highly likely that there will be significant cultural heritage and other impacts. Some of the companies involved have already entered into or have declared their intention to enter into Indigenous Land Use Agreements or other forms of agreement with traditional owners for mine, rail and port projects.

This section describes the proposed mines, their size, ownership and some of their environmental impacts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mine</th>
<th>Full production (saleable coal millions of tonnes pa)</th>
<th>Potential first year of production</th>
<th>Potential full production year</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alpha Coal mine</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2015 (Q2)</td>
<td>2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alpha North mine</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>2016 (Q4)</td>
<td>2021</td>
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<td>Alpha West mine</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2020</td>
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<td>Carmichael mine</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>2014 (Q4)</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China First mine</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>2015 (Q1)</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China Stone mine</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Degulla Project</td>
<td>35 (est)</td>
<td>2017 (est)</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin’s Corner mine</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>2015 (Q4)</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Galilee Coal Project</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2015 (Q1)</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Mine production capacity and timing. See Appendix for references.
Carmichael mine

Adani
Adani is an Indian resources, logistics and energy company with big expansion plans. It is developing coal mining interests in India, Indonesia and Australia and plans to construct a series of massive coal power stations (resulting in 20,000 MW total capacity) in India by 2020. The company also has interests in ports. It owns and runs Mundra, the largest privately owned port in India. In Australia, Adani leases the existing coal terminal at Abbot Point and has expansion plans there and at the port of Hay Point. Adani plans to integrate these business interests: burning Australian coal in its Indian power stations, transported through its Australian ports.

Carmichael
Owner: The Carmichael project was purchased in 2010 by Adani Group in a deal worth up to $3 billion.

Description: Carmichael, comprising both open cut (a third) and longwall operations (two thirds), would be Australia’s largest coal mine, producing 60 million tonnes of coal per year during its 90 year lifespan.

Most of the mine’s workforce would be flown directly to an airstrip at the mine site.

Global environmental impacts: The mine would have a production capacity of 60 mtpa. This amount of coal, when burnt for electricity generation, would produce 128.4 million tonnes of CO₂, greater than the 2009 CO₂ emissions from fuel combustion in Sweden, Norway and Denmark combined.

Environmental impacts: The Carmichael project’s 40 km long open-cut mine would destroy approximately 10,000 ha of land including most of the Bygana West Nature Refuge (approximately 1,100 ha) – a highly diverse area supporting two endangered regional woodland ecosystems and containing habitat suitable for a variety of animals including koalas.
South Galilee Coal Project

14
Full production (saleable coal mtpa)

28.2
Estimated max CO₂ from combustion (mtpa)

AMCI & Bandanna

The exploration company Bandanna Energy owns four exploration permits for coal for the South Galilee Coal Project through subsidiary Alpha Coal Pty Ltd. Through a deal in 2008, AMCI Capital now owns a 50% interest in the project.

South Galilee Coal

Owner: A joint venture between Australian exploration company Bandanna Energy and private equity firm AMCI Capital.

Description: With a planned average production capacity of 13.6 mtpa, the open-cut and underground South Galilee coal project is the smallest advanced mine proposal for the Galilee Basin. The mine is located south of the township of Alpha, would have a lifespan of 30 years and is aiming for first coal in 2015. The project’s workforce would be nearly 100% fly-in fly-out.

Global environmental impacts: The mine would have an average production capacity of 14 mtpa over its lifetime. This amount of coal, when burnt for electricity generation, would produce 28.2 million tonnes of CO₂, equivalent to the 2009 CO₂ emissions from fuel combustion in Cuba.

Environmental impacts: The project’s Environmental Impact Statement, detailing its ecological footprint, is yet to be released. It is known that the South Galilee Coal Project mining lease application area contains areas of endangered regional ecosystem and a number of watercourses.
Aerial view of woodland in the Galilee Basin.
©Greenpeace/Andrew Quilty
Alpha Coal mine

GVK & Hancock Prospecting

Alpha Coal

Owner: Following a US$1.26 billion deal with Gina Rinehart’s Hancock Coal in September 2011, Alpha Coal is 79% owned by Indian conglomerate GVK. Rinehart’s company retains a 21% stake in the mine.

Description: The Alpha Project is the only completely open-cut mine so far proposed for the Galilee Basin. It would produce 30 mtpa of washed coal for export for approximately 30 years. It is the most advanced mine proposal in the Galilee Basin, with Queensland and Federal Government approval secured. However, the Federal Environment Minister has reserved a concurrence power for further plans required prior to construction commencing. First coal is expected in 2015 with the mine reaching full output by 2019.

Global environmental impacts: The mine would have a maximum production capacity of 30 mtpa. This amount of coal, when burnt for electricity generation, would produce 64.7 million tonnes of CO₂, equivalent to the 2009 CO₂ emissions from fuel combustion in Israel.

Local environmental impacts: The mine would directly impact 20,618 ha of land, a range of different types of woodland and grazing land. The project would require the clearing of thousands of hectares of high value habitat for important threatened species including the endangered Black-throated Finch, Star Finch, the vulnerable Red Goshawk, Southern Squatter Pigeon, Australian Painted Snipe, Greater Long-eared Bat and Yaka Skink. The project site is known to be home to over 160 vertebrate fauna species: 94 birds, 36 mammals, 27 reptiles and 10 amphibians. The mammals include three species of wallaby, kangaroos, bettongs, echidnas, koalas and 17 species of bats. The birds include the vulnerable Southern Squatter Pigeon and 24 migratory species. The company has proposed building a tailings storage facility with a footprint covering 10% of the catchment for a regional sandstone aquifer, used by a number of landholders for their water supply.

Destination for coal: GVK claims to have secured buyers for 100% of the coal from Alpha, spread across seven countries: Japan, Taiwan, Vietnam, China, Korea, Philippines and India.

GVK

GVK is a diverse company engaged in bioscience, hotels, road and airport construction as well as oil and gas exploration, coal mining and power generation. Through purchasing a majority share in Hancock Coal’s Galilee Basin projects, the company has massively expanded its resource and infrastructure business. It plans to integrate these coal mining assets with its coal power station expansion plans in India and sell the rest of the coal dug from the Galilee mines to electricity generators in other Asian countries. The Native Title Tribunal register lists four Indigenous Land Use Agreements between Hancock Coal and with native title claimants in the areas to be affected by their railway and port.
Kevin’s Corner mine

| 27 | Full production  
|    | (saleable coal mtpa) |

| 57.8 | Estimated max CO₂ from combustion (mtpa) |

GVK

Kevin’s Corner

**Owner:** The project is 100% owned by GVK.42

**Description:** Located adjacent to the Alpha Project, the predominantly underground mine would export coal for at least 30 years. The mine is at an advanced stage of planning having already produced an environmental impact statement (EIS). GVK aims for first coal in 2016 with production ramping up over three years.43 The EIS includes plans for a 2.5 km runway to provide air access for the mine’s predominantly fly-in fly-out work force.44

**Global environmental impacts:** The mine would have a maximum production capacity of 27 mtpa. This amount of coal, when burnt for electricity generation, would produce 57.8 million tonnes of CO₂, greater than the 2009 CO₂ emissions from fuel combustion in Finland.

**Environmental impacts:** The proposed mine is located on relatively productive alluvial plains.45 The Cudmore Resources Reserve is located within the north-eastern section of the site. Part of this reserve is above an area set to be underground mined, threatening it with subsidence and a disrupted water table. The nearby Cudmore National Park is located approximately 700 metres west of the project boundary.

Over 8,000 ha of land would be cleared (including the destruction of 5213 ha of woodland) to make way for the mine and related infrastructure.46 Vast swathes of additional land (19,507 ha), including 12,560 ha of woodland, could be affected by subsidence and water table disruption resulting from underground mining.47

There would also be underground mining beneath 16.7 ha of rare Brigalow Open Woodland, an Endangered Regional Ecosystem of which there is only 800 ha in the bioregion, threatening it with subsidence and a disrupted water table.48 An endangered ecological community, Bluegrass Grassland, is also located in an area planned to be used as a transport corridor.49 Over 160 fauna species have been identified on the project area including 92 bird species, 39 mammals, 26 reptiles and 10 different amphibian species.50 The birds include six types of raptor and the threatened Southern Squatter Pigeon. The mammals include Eastern Grey Kangaroos, Red Kangaroos, wallaroos, bettongs, sugar gliders, dunnarts, echidnas and koalas.
Alpha West mine

Global environmental impacts: The mine would have a maximum production capacity of 24 mtpa. This amount of coal, when burnt for electricity generation, would produce 51.8 million tonnes of CO₂, greater than the 2009 CO₂ emissions from fuel combustion in Bangladesh.

Environmental impacts: The mine proposal is less developed than the other two GVK proposals with the environmental approval process yet to begin.

GVK & Hancock Prospecting

Owner: The project is 79% owned by GVK with Gina Rinehart’s Hancock Group retaining the remaining 21%.51

Description: The proposed 24 mtpa52 Alpha West mine would be located on part of the mining lease application for the Alpha Coal Project. Essentially it is an underground westerly continuation of the Alpha mine. Mining is planned to begin in 2016.53

Estimated max CO₂ from combustion (mtpa)

Hancock Prospecting

The Executive Chairperson of Hancock Prospecting (HPPL), Gina Rinehart, marked in 2010 “the historic first mining of the Galilee Basin” when opening the test pit at the Alpha coal mine in the company of Federal Resources Minister Martin Ferguson.54 In September 2011 Hancock Coal sold the Kevin’s Corner Project and “T3” terminal proposal at Abbot Point, along with a majority share (79%) in the Alpha and Alpha West projects to Indian conglomerate GVK for $1.26 billion.55
Macmines Austasia

Macmines Austasia is owned by the Meijin Energy Group, established and run by the Shanxi-based Yao family. The group employs over 14,000 people and is the largest private coke producer in China. The group claims to have access to over 3 billion tonnes of coal reserves in 10 mines, extensive interests in steelmaking, coal, gas and associated coal products.

China Stone

Owner: Chinese-owned Macmines Austasia

Description: Four longwall and one open-cut mine would produce 60 mtpa of thermal coal for two of China’s largest power groups (each company taking 30 mtpa).

Global environmental impacts:
The mine would have a maximum production capacity of 60 mtpa. This amount of coal, when burnt for electricity generation, would produce 128.4 million tonnes of CO₂, greater than the 2009 CO₂ emissions from fuel combustion in Sweden, Norway and Denmark combined.

Environmental impacts:
The mine area is fragmented, as part of the region has been placed off-limits to mining in order to protect the catchment of Lake Buchanan. This saline lake is home to a number of newly discovered and probably endemic species including the Lake Buchanan button grass and the vulnerable Lake Buchanan blue bush. The lake is also a significant refuge of Lake Buchanan’s fairy shrimp.
**Alpha North mine**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>40</th>
<th>Full production (saleable coal mtpa)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>85.6</td>
<td>Estimated max CO₂ from combustion (mtpa)</td>
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</table>

**Waratah Coal**

Waratah Coal is owned by Clive Palmer’s company Mineralogy. He purchased Waratah Coal in late 2008 and has been seeking to turn its coal resources into a series of mega mines since then. Through Mineralogy, Clive Palmer has a range of other businesses, including a nickel smelter in Townsville and massive iron ore deposits in Western Australia.60

**Alpha North**

**Owner:** Clive Palmer’s Waratah Coal

**Description:** In addition to the China First coal project, Clive Palmer’s Waratah Coal proposes three other mining developments in the Galilee Basin. Of these, Alpha North is the most advanced. The project is located north of the Kevin’s Corner mine and combines open-cut and underground mining to produce 40 mtpa of coal—equal to the China First mine. Waratah Coal states the mine would “deliver quality thermal coal to China.”61

**Global environmental impacts:** The mine would have a maximum production capacity of 40 mtpa. This amount of coal, when burnt for electricity generation, would produce 85.6 million tonnes of CO₂, greater than the 2009 CO₂ emissions from fuel combustion in Kuwait.

**Environmental impacts:** Part of the project area is located on the Cudmore National Park and the Cudmore Resources Reserve. A recent Waratah Coal publication has shown that the company plans to longwall mine beneath both the national park and the reserve area.62
Some of the wildlife and beauty of the Bimblebox Nature Refuge.
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China First mine

China First
Owner: Clive Palmer’s Waratah Coal.
Description: Aiming for first coal production in early 2015, the China First project includes two open-cut and four underground longwall mines with a combined output of 40 mtpa. Funding for the $4.0 billion mine is expected to flow from Chinese state-owned banks, the project is to be built by Chinese state-owned companies and its coal is destined for Chinese power stations.

Global environmental impacts:
The mine would have a maximum production capacity of 40 mtpa. This amount of coal, when burnt for electricity generation, would produce 85.6 million tonnes of CO₂, greater than the 2009 CO₂ emissions from fuel combustion in Kuwait.

Environmental impacts:
Half of the 8,000 ha Bimblebox Nature Refuge would be destroyed by open cut mining if the China First mine goes ahead.

Bimblebox Nature Refuge
Total area: 8,000ha

Half of Bimblebox will be threatened by subsidence and groundwater impacts from underground mining.

Bimblebox Nature Refuge

In 2003, the owners of the Bimblebox Nature Refuge signed an agreement with the Queensland Government to permanently protect the conservation values of the property. This biodiversity refuge, located in the Desert Uplands bioregion, is almost entirely covered by remnant woodland.

Currently, half of the 8000 ha Bimblebox Nature Reserve is slated for open-cut coal pits under Waratah Coal’s China First mine proposal. The refuge contains a range of ecosystems, supports at least 220 plant species and around 150 bird species. The nationally endangered Black-throated Finch has been recorded on the property, as have the vulnerable Red Goshawk and Squatter Pigeon.
Degulla Project

Vale claims that it is the second biggest mining company in the world, operating in 38 countries across five continents and employing over 100,000 people. In Australia, outside of the Galilee Basin, Vale has interests in other coal mines in Queensland and New South Wales.46

Vale

Owner: The Brazilian mining giant Vale owns a number of coal exploration permits in the Galilee Basin including the site of the Degulla Project.

Description: Vale has stated the mine would have a 20-45 mtpa capacity from four seams, three mined open-cut and one by longwall although the project is still to be properly defined.

Global environmental impacts: We have estimated that the mine could have a maximum production capacity of 35 mtpa. This amount of coal, when burnt for electricity generation, would produce 74.9 million tonnes of CO₂, greater than the 2009 CO₂ emissions from fuel combustion in the Philippines.

Degulla

35 (est)
Full production
(saleable coal mtpa)

74.9
Estimated
max CO₂ from combustion (mtpa)

Environmental impacts:
Vale has not begun the formal public environmental approval process for its mine, making it difficult to assess the full environmental impact. However, the three Vale exploration permits in the area all contain endangered regional ecosystems with one containing two nature refuges, although it is unlikely that the coal to be mined by Vale lies directly below these.
Five of these projects would each be larger than any coal mine currently operating in Australia.

**Loy Yang**

Current largest mine in Australia

The massive Loy Yang mine, feeding Loy Yang Power Station in Victoria’s Latrobe Valley, produces 30Mt of brown coal per annum.10
The rail lines

The rail lines from the Galilee Basin would cross the flood plains of Central Queensland on raised tracks, causing considerable local concern that they will act as levies, change the hydrology of the floodplain and expose landowners to increased risk of flood damage and loss of agricultural production. Landowners are also concerned that moving millions of tonnes of coal in open-topped wagons at 80 km/h would result in considerable amounts of coal dust being blown into the air and deposited on grazing land near the rail line.

The preferred north/south corridor is the proposal by GVK/Hancock to build a 495 km rail line from the southern part of the Galilee Basin (near the town of Alpha) to Abbot Point. The preferred east/west corridor is the proposal by Adani to build a new 180 km rail line from its proposed Carmichael mine site (in the middle of the Galilee Basin) to intersect with the existing Bowen Basin rail network near Moranbah. Adani is collaborating with the existing rail operator, QR National, to integrate with the existing rail network and to enable access to proposed new ports at Abbot Point and Dudgeon Point.

Several companies have developed their own competing proposals for rail lines, prompting concerns among graziers that multiple, criss-crossing rail lines would seriously disrupt agricultural production. While originally promising a single rail line from the Galilee Basin, the Queensland LNP Government has put its weight behind two rail proposals: a north/south corridor and an east/west corridor.
The Great Barrier Reef is not only one of the most spectacular and rich ecosystems on earth, it is worth over $5 billion annually to the Australian economy and supports over 50,000 Australian jobs. Today, the Reef faces a two-pronged assault from the coal industry. In addition to the threat of climate change, the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area risks becoming a coal super highway, with a massive proposed expansion of coal ports and a dramatic increase in shipping numbers.

The proposed major ports that will export coal from the Galilee Basin are Abbot Point, near Bowen, and the Port of Hay Point, near Mackay. If expansion plans go ahead as indicated, these two ports, which lie within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, will become two of the largest coal ports in the world. Such a massive expansion would see thousands of extra coal ships travelling through the Reef each year, millions of tonnes of sea floor dredged and potentially dumped in the Marine Park, and coastal and marine ecosystems and species habitat damaged or destroyed.

The impacts of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) developments at the Port of Gladstone paint a picture of the destruction such developments can wreak on the local environment and the economies that depend on it. UNESCO has warned that it may list the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area as “in danger” in 2013 unless Australia acts decisively on a series of recommendations to avert the clear threats to the Reef’s “Outstanding Universal Value”.

There are nine new coal port or terminal projects currently in the planning system along the Great Barrier Reef coast. These include the proposed Fitzroy and Balaclava Island terminals in the pristine Fitzroy River delta at the southern end of Keppel Bay, and the Yarwun terminal in Gladstone Harbour. A complete list of existing and proposed ports and terminals is included in Appendix 2. All of these new terminal or port proposals have the potential to impact individually and cumulatively on the Outstanding Universal Value of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. In this report, we concentrate on the Port of Abbot Point and the Dudgeon Point development at the Port of Hay Point, as these will service the Galilee Basin mines, although not all of the additional capacity of these expanding ports will be taken up by coal mined from the Galilee.

Despite inadequate analysis and understanding of the potential cumulative impacts of these developments, and ahead of a planned broad scale Strategic Assessment of the Reef and its management, these expansive and destructive coastal port developments continue to make their way through the approval process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current and proposed capacity at Hay Point and Abbot Point</th>
<th>Current capacity (mtpa)</th>
<th>Proposed capacity (mtpa)</th>
<th>FY 2011 vessels</th>
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See Appendix for references
Abbot Point port

Owners: Adani has a 99 year lease on the current terminal. Development proposals for other terminals are in process from Adani, BHP Billiton, GVK and Waratah Coal.

Description: The port of Abbot Point has a current capacity of 50 million tonnes of coal a year through a two-berth ship terminal leased by Adani. Three new coal terminals are proposed adjacent to this: a 35 mtpa expansion by Adani (Terminal 0) and two new 60 mtpa terminals to be built by BHP Billiton (Terminal 2) and GVK (Terminal 3). Together these developments would increase the number of ship berths at the port to eight and its coal capacity to 205 mtpa.

Clive Palmer’s Waratah Coal plans to build a coal terminal that could be even larger than all the other developments at Abbot Point combined. This mega terminal would be the largest in Australia with a capacity of 240 mtpa (equivalent to 85% of Australia’s 2011 coal exports).

Environmental impact: Development proposals from GVK, BHP Billiton and Adani would necessitate the dredging of 3,000,000 m³ of material from from the waters around Abbot Point. The dredging waste may then be dumped in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The beach next to Abbot Point is a known nesting site for turtles and the waters form part of a Humpback whale aggregation site. Such sites are described in the Federal Government’s Humpback Whale Recovery Plan 2005-2010 as “habitat important (and potentially critical) to the survival of humpback whales.”

The dredging operations would destroy seagrass suitable for turtle and dugong foraging, have the potential to injure or kill turtles and other animals and would result in a plume of sediment up to three km² in size visible from the air.

On land, the coal terminals proposed by GVK and BHP Billiton would be located close to the beautiful Caley (Kaili) Valley wetlands. High in ecological significance within the Great Barrier Reef catchment, the wetlands are a seasonal home to thousands of birds. Impacts from the coal terminals would primarily stem from initial clearing and enclosure of parts of the wetland, from runoff laden with coal contaminants, coal dust blowing off the stockpiles and from the light and noise generated by a 24 hours a day industrial site. Trains supplying the terminal would also have an additional impact on the area. The approval of the Alpha Coal Project by the Queensland and Federal Governments means the loss of 16 hectares of the wetland and the enclosure of a further 99 hectares to build a rail loop to GVK’s proposed T3 terminal.

The scale and potential impact of the Waratah Coal proposal is huge. It would require a 2.5 km long wharf capable of handling eight coal ships. This would be fed by an 8.5 km long conveyor that would cut across the Caley Valley wetlands. The stockpiles of coal to feed the terminal would cover 320 hectares of land, in addition to the area required for rail loops and other infrastructure.

Waratah Coal has not quantified the volume of dredging required to allow ships to reach the proposed wharf but given the scale of the project this would almost certainly run to millions of cubic metres. If all the proposed developments for Abbot Point currently in the planning system get approval (not including the recently scrapped Multi Cargo Facility), maximum ship numbers for the port would reach an estimated 4800 a year.

“We’re talking about the Reef. If you can’t get your environmental protections and systems in place on this one you may as well give up.”

Federal Environment Minister Tony Burke
612 ABC Brisbane 6 June 2012
Hay Point port

In addition to its expansion plans at Abbot Point, Adani is also joint developer of the proposed 180 mtpa Dudgeon Point coal terminals project at the port of Hay Point. It is possible that coal from Adani’s and some other Galilee mines would be exported through this additional capacity.87

**Owners:** Two coal terminals currently operate at Hay Point. One is leased by Brookfield Infrastructure (a Bermuda-based global infrastructure company)88 and the other owned by the BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance.89 The new terminals at Dudgeon Point would be constructed and operated by Adani and Brookfield Infrastructure.90 North Queensland Bulk Ports (NQBP) manages the port on behalf of the Queensland Government.

**Description:** The two coal terminals currently operating have a combined capacity of 129 mtpa, with plans to more than double this by building a 180 mtpa expansion at Dudgeon Point to the north of the existing terminals. The Dudgeon Point proposal consists of two 90 mtpa coal terminals and would require eight ship berths, resulting in up to 2000 extra ships visiting the port each year.91 If this development proceeds, the maximum number of ships for the whole Hay/Dudgeon Point Port complex would be 3600.92

In addition to concerns over the impact on the marine environment, the proposed port expansion at Dudgeon Point is creating serious concern within the local community over the health impacts of coal dust on nearby residents. The Queensland Government’s NQBP states that workers may need to be brought in from overseas to meet the labour demand during the terminal’s construction.93
The changing economics of coal

Global context

Australia is being asked to accept the loss of fertile agricultural land, clean rivers and aquifers, the Great Barrier Reef and the opportunity to avoid dangerous levels of global warming as the inevitable cost of prosperity. In reality, the era of coal is ending and Australia risks being stranded in the hole it leaves behind.

Global energy markets are changing. Last year, global investment in renewable energy exceeded investment in fossil fuel energy generation and reached record investment levels, despite difficult global financial circumstances. This is a reflection of a profound and disruptive trend where the long-term costs of fossil fuels are increasing while the costs of renewable energy technologies are falling rapidly.

The current coal rush can be seen as part of a final push to lock in infrastructure before the inevitable shift towards low-carbon energy sources. It is being driven in large part by optimistic future demand scenarios for coal in India and China which fly in the face of the longer term trends that are redefining global energy markets. This optimism over future coal demand also ignores commitments made by those countries, with the rest of the world, to limit global warming to below 2°C above pre-industrial temperatures. The international coal market is dominated by just six countries, with Australia and Indonesia alone responsible for half the internationally traded thermal coal.

While there are proposals in India for the construction of over 300 new coal plants, as the new energy dynamic unfolds, it is clear that many if not most of these plants are unlikely to be built. This is largely due to the acute shortage of cheap domestic coal, the high cost of imported coal, and plummeting prices for alternative sources of energy. Massive new coal projects such as the 4000MW Tata Mundra and Krishnapatnam “ultra mega power plants” in India are facing financial strain as high coal prices undermine their economic viability. Construction of the Krishnapatnam plant was suspended in mid-2011 and Tata Power recently announced that it was putting on hold all new imported-coal based projects.

The current coal rush can be seen as part of a final push to lock in infrastructure before the inevitable shift towards low-carbon energy sources.

HSBC has analysed the effect of India’s climate change and energy policies, and concludes that the country is moving “decisively in favour of low-carbon growth,” estimating that solar power will reach retail grid parity with coal in India by 2015, and wholesale parity by 2018.

A similar pattern is emerging in China, with record-setting investments in renewable energy, coupled with rising costs and growing health and environmental concerns over coal power. Perhaps the greatest indicator of this trend is the inclusion of a coal consumption cap for the year 2015 in the latest five year plan of the Chinese central government. Along with existing customers like Japan and South Korea, India and China are proposed to be major destinations for much of the coal mined for the Galilee Basin. The rush to massively increase thermal coal exports from the Galilee Basin is part of the last gasp of the old economy, and risks locking in a generation of polluting coal infrastructure.

Contrary to industry claims, if large-scale thermal coal exports from the Galilee Basin do not proceed, it is unlikely that this scale of production could be achieved from other countries in timeframes within which new coal plants would be economically viable.

Energy markets are at a point of flux and Australia’s push to radically increase coal exports could have a strong impact in driving more polluting energy investment. The scale of Australia’s coal exports are crucial in determining the future of energy investment and the future of the global climate.
Local context

The coal boom in Queensland is putting severe strain on the environment, communities and the economy, with growing concern that the sheer scale and speed of the boom is out of balance. The social impacts of the fly-in fly-out model, increasing living costs and the emergence of a two-speed economy are putting increasing strain on many families and communities. The manufacturing industry is feeling the pinch through competition for skilled workers and record high exchange rates driven by the mining boom. Other industries such as tourism and agriculture are also feeling the impact of the high Australian dollar, as well as the direct impacts of mining on farmland and the Queensland coastline.

For example, the Environmental Impact Statement for Clive Palmer’s China First mine revealed that the mine would result in 3000 jobs lost across Australia in manufacturing, agriculture and tourism. More local impacts of this project on small and medium-sized businesses include higher bills for payroll and rent and a crisis of housing affordability for those who will not be employed in the new mines.

Despite the boom, mining as a whole only employs around 2% of the Australian workforce, with many more people employed in manufacturing, tourism, agriculture and other sectors that are being impacted by mining. Staggeringly, 83% of the mining industry in Australia is foreign-owned. While Australia bears many of the negative impacts of this once-only rush to dig up resources, many of the benefits head offshore.

While the coal industry is quick to trumpet its contribution, nobody is tallying up all of the costs, not least on the World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef, which is the backbone of a $5 billion tourism industry employing over 50,000 people. The profound failure of Australia’s regulatory system means there is no serious analysis of the combined negative impacts of such a large-scale expansion of mining on communities, the economy, local environments, groundwater, rivers or the global climate.

Alarming few elected leaders are even asking the question “can Australia afford to do this?”

“We must not overlook a fundamental contradiction between the way global fossil fuel reserves are evaluated and long-term policy goals. By ignoring this contradiction, companies and markets, as well as governments, are undermining management of the huge risks that rising levels of greenhouse gases pose to their survival.”

Lord Nicholas Stern
Financial Times, 8 December 2011
For projects with such large-scale and long-term consequences, the decision-making process must be robust if the public interest is to be upheld. In reality, the environmental assessment process in Queensland is geared towards rubber-stamping projects and facilitating development at almost any cost.

There are so many projects of such a large scale that landowners and community groups simply don’t have the resources to scrutinise them.

Concerns have been raised about the independence of the Queensland Government assessment process. A leaked email from a staff member at the Queensland Coordinator General’s office on 25 May 2012 revealed the heavy presence and direct line of influence that companies can exert in the regulatory process, in this case, for the controversial Alpha Coal Project in the Galilee Basin:

“I expect that Hancock will be lobbying heavily to obtain their approval from you once our Report is finalised; they have had a direct line to the new government and the Coordinator-General here. On Tuesday they came in with 22 experts to “discuss” the proposed conditions, 48 hours before the report was supposed to be finished.”

Anonymous quote in story by Kym Agius, “Rumbles over Rinehart linked to $6.4b Alpha mine” Brisbane Times, 2 June 2012

This project has now also been given approval by the Federal Government. In reality there is very little oversight of the cumulative environmental impacts of coal mining, rail and port developments in Australia, and no oversight of the greenhouse gas emissions from this coal boom.

At the international level, Australia only needs to report emissions produced on its shores to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. With the vast majority of the Galilee Basin’s expected coal production likely to be burnt overseas, the emissions from these mines will not count towards Australia’s tally. Meanwhile, only one of the major countries that purchases Australian coal, Japan, is subject to the same greenhouse accounting requirements as Australia. The others, like South Korea, China and India, are developing economies, whose greenhouse reporting requirements are less stringent.

Decision makers are not considering the cumulative consequences opening up this region could have on global efforts to reach the goal of limiting warming to below 2°C. Nor do environmental assessment processes at the state and national levels address the question of the greenhouse gas emissions produced from these proposed mines, and the impact this has on Australia’s climate commitments.

Instead, each of these mines and ports are subject to individual, ad hoc environmental assessments. Alarminglly, the T3 coal terminal at Abbot Point, which would export coal from the Alpha and Kevin’s Corner mines, has not been subject to an Environmental Impact Statement of any kind at a state level and is only being assessed under the lower standard of ‘preliminary documentation’ at a Federal level. The terminal will intrude into coastal wetlands, seagrass beds and a Humpback whale aggregation area in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage site, but no new threatened and migratory species surveys were conducted for the assessment this year, and the Queensland Government hasn’t assessed the project at all.

In fact, the Queensland Government has declared its intentions to minimise environmental assessment to expedite coal project approvals. The Queensland Premier declared in June that the state is “in the coal business” and the state Environment Minister has confessed he’s not convinced that human-made greenhouse pollution is driving climate change.
In June this year, Federal Environment Minister, Tony Burke, took the positive step of announcing a separate national environmental assessment for the Alpha Coal Project following the failure of the Queensland system to address the impact of the proposal on matters of national environmental significance. Burke described the Queensland Government’s approach to the project as “shambolic”. He nevertheless approved the mine himself just three months later.

In the wake of international criticism of the impact of development on the Great Barrier Reef, and Australia’s capacity to protect it, there is an urgent need for more scrutiny of the cumulative impact of these proposals.

The report from UNESCO’s Monitoring Mission was released in June and warned that “the scale and pace of coastal development appear beyond the capacity for independent, quality and transparent decision making.”

The state and federal governments have committed to a Strategic Assessment of the Great Barrier Reef to review the management arrangements of the proposed coastal developments and determine whether the current system is adequately protecting this irreplaceable natural icon. But neither government has committed to implementing a moratorium on approving coal developments that would impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

“The scale and pace of coastal development appear beyond the capacity for independent, quality and transparent decision making.”

UNESCO’s Monitoring Mission
June 2012

“I thought there was no argument about whether the project should go ahead or not.”

Queensland Premier Campbell Newman
Discussing the Alpha Coal Project, 612 ABC Brisbane, 6 June 2012
Aerial view of woodlands in the Galilee Basin.
©Greenpeace/Andrew Quilty
Conclusion and recommendations

The proposed development of the Galilee Basin mines, supporting rail infrastructure and coal ports present a clear threat to the global climate, local environments and the Great Barrier Reef. This region is just one example of the expansion plans of the coal industry around Australia.

Australia has made a commitment, with 193 other countries, including our major trading partners, to limit global warming to below 2°C above pre-industrial temperatures. The credibility of Australia’s commitment to that goal is now under question, and the decisions made about the exploitation of the coal resource in the Galilee Basin are at the heart of Australia’s climate change dilemma.

This is not a comfortable conversation for Australia, or its coal trading partners, to have. There is no current policy framework to guide the national government to take action to prevent this scale of greenhouse gas emissions from being unlocked by these mines, but that does not mean action should not be taken.

The warnings from scientists and international institutions are unequivocal: the Reef needs urgent and decisive action to stave off the immediate threat of development, and the insidious threat of climate change.

Both threats are bound up with Australia’s decisions about the coal resource in the Galilee Basin, the exploitation of which would have the dual outcome of reckless industrialisation of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and contribution to a degree of coal consumption that could render international climate goals unattainable.

What the Australian Government needs to do:

1. Halt all proposals to expand coal mining and exports, starting with the proposed mega mines in the Galilee Basin.
2. Prioritise the protection of the Great Barrier Reef and stop the development of new coal ports and terminals along the coast.
3. Immediately embark on an independent analysis of the contribution of Australia’s coal exports to climate change, and develop a national policy framework to control it.

One of these mines, the Alpha Coal Project, including its 495km rail line, has already been approved by the Federal and Queensland Governments, but slackening demand for coal internationally gives Australia breathing space to properly consider the consequences of opening up this new frontier for coal mining. The conditions are right for the Australian Government to resist the short-term interests of mining corporations and take strong decisions to safeguard our environment and economy long-term.

With scientists calling for a dramatic reduction in emissions and the UN’s World Heritage body, UNESCO, threatening to declare the Great Barrier Reef “in danger” unless Australia changes course, the future of the Galilee Basin is bound up with the most profound environmental and policy challenges this country has ever faced.
The current coal terminals at Hay Point in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. ©Greenpeace/Tom Jefferson
Appendix

Appendix 1: Quantifying the climate impact of proposed Galilee Basin mines

Proposed Galilee Basin coal mines

The coal mines proposed for the Galilee Basin are at different stages of planning and development. For this analysis, nine mine proposals with defined production capacities are considered. Where possible, information about the mines’ lifetime, estimated start year, mine ramp up and production capacity have been sourced from proponent information. All sources are detailed in the endnotes provided. Where such information was not available, conservative estimates have been made based on the properties of other comparable mines.

The information upon which the calculations of CO₂ emissions from burning the coal mined in the Galilee Basin are based is presented in Table 3. Coal from all of these mines will be of a thermal grade. Based on proponent information, it has reasonably been assumed that the coal is all destined for use in power stations generating electricity. Mine proponents have published the properties of the preferred coal product from five of the proposed Galilee Basin mines. The Alpha west mine is essentially a western continuation of the Alpha Coal Project and so its coal product has been estimated to be of the same quality. An estimate of the quality of coal from the remaining three proposed mines has been calculated as a weighted average of the product from the other six mines.

Greenhouse gas emission methodology

The greenhouse gas emissions resulting from combustion of Galilee Basin coal have been estimated using Australian Government Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency emission factors and the estimated or stated energy content of the coal to be produced from each Galilee mine as listed in Table 3.

In Australia, emissions from the combustion of coal for electricity generation are measured directly at source rather than estimated. However, the National Greenhouse Accounts Factors do provide accounts factors for estimating the emissions resulting from the combustion of black coal. It is these factors that Greenpeace has used to estimate the emissions from burning the coal proposed to be mined from the Galilee Basin. These emissions factors are 88.2 kg CO₂ /GJ and 88.43 kg CO₂-e/ GJ. The Australian National Inventory Report 2010 presents the emission factors of Australian black coal power stations based on the measurement of emissions reported there. The National Greenhouse Accounts Factors estimated value falls within the greatest frequency and median emission factor range (87.0 – 88.9 kg CO₂ /GJ), indicating that it is a valid approximation for the emissions resulting from coal combustion in power stations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mine</th>
<th>Full production (saleable coal)</th>
<th>Start year (production)</th>
<th>Ramp up (years)</th>
<th>Assumed full production year</th>
<th>GAR CV (kcal/kg)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alpha Coal mine</td>
<td>30¹³²</td>
<td>2015 (Q2)¹¹³³</td>
<td>4 (est)</td>
<td>2019 (est)</td>
<td>5847¹³⁵</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpha North mine</td>
<td>40¹³⁶</td>
<td>2016 (Q4)¹¹⁶³</td>
<td>4 (est)</td>
<td>2021 (est)</td>
<td>5798¹³⁸</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpha West mine</td>
<td>24¹³⁹</td>
<td>2016¹²⁰</td>
<td>4 (est)</td>
<td>2020 (est)</td>
<td>5847¹³¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carmichael mine</td>
<td>60¹³²</td>
<td>2014 (Q4)¹²³</td>
<td>7¹²⁴</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>5799¹³⁵</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China First mine</td>
<td>40¹²⁶</td>
<td>2015 (Q1)¹²⁷</td>
<td>2¹²⁸</td>
<td>2017¹²⁹</td>
<td>5798¹³⁰</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China Stone mine</td>
<td>60¹³¹</td>
<td>2016¹³²</td>
<td>7 (est)</td>
<td>2023</td>
<td>5799¹³³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degulla Project</td>
<td>35 (est)¹³⁴</td>
<td>2017 (est)</td>
<td>5 (est)</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>5799¹³⁵</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin’s Corner mine</td>
<td>27¹³⁶</td>
<td>2015 (Q4)¹³⁷</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2019¹³⁸</td>
<td>5800¹³⁹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Galilee Coal Project</td>
<td>13.6¹⁴⁰</td>
<td>2015 (Q1)¹⁴¹</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2022¹⁴²</td>
<td>5615¹⁴³</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3: Mine production capacity, timing and product quality
Greenhouse gas potential of the Galilee Basin

When determining the potential climate impact of the combustion of coal from the Galilee Basin, it is necessary to consider the maximum possible production from the proposed mines. From a commercial perspective, the huge costs associated with their construction mean that operation at such levels may well be necessary to make the mines commercially viable. From a precautionary perspective, when quantifying an environmental threat, the worst case scenario must be determined.

Modelling based on the construction and production timeframes listed in Table 3 reveals that the Galilee could reach peak production by 2023 with capacity to produce 330 mtpa of saleable thermal coal (million tonnes per annum). In 2020, production of some mines would still be ramping up and maximum production could reach 269 mtpa.

Coal from the Galilee Basin is intended for burning in power stations overseas (predominantly in China and India) to generate electricity. If all the proposed mines reach maximum production, based on the emissions factors set out above, this combustion would result in emissions of up to 705 million tonnes of CO₂ (or 707 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per year).

Emissions from the combustion of the estimated capacity by 2020 would result in emissions of 576 million tonnes of CO₂ (or 577 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per year) in that year.

Activities necessary to get the coal to the power station, such as land clearing, mine construction, mining, rail transportation and overseas shipping, also result in the release of greenhouse gases.

For example, Waratah Coal estimates that the China First mine, when operating at maximum capacity, will generate 2.3 million tonnes CO₂-e per annum of Scope 1 and 2 emissions, primarily due to fugitive methane emissions from mining, diesel consumption and offsite generation of electricity consumed during operations.144 Based on the company’s estimates, transportation of the China First mines’ coal by rail to Abbot Point will result in an additional 0.292 Mt CO₂-e per annum. Therefore, onshore activities associated with the China First mine will result in 2.592 Mt CO₂-e per annum.145 These emissions are not inconsiderable.

The China First emissions are equivalent to emissions from 734,000 cars or 209,000 Australian households. Yet they are equivalent to only 3% of the emissions that will be released by burning the mined coal, further indicating the scale of emissions that will result from Galilee Basin mines. This report Cooking the Climate, Wrecking the Reef discusses the climate impact only of the Scope 3 emissions from the proposed Galilee Basin mines, that is, the emissions produced when the exported coal is burnt to produce energy.

Given that the China First mine represents only 12% of proposed mining capacity in the Galilee, total onshore emissions associated with the mines are likely to be considerably larger. Some mine proposals are currently not developed enough to permit an estimation of their onshore emissions. Similarly, shipping the coal overseas would result in further release of greenhouse gases. Full information about the likely export destinations for coal from some proposed mines is not available. Therefore only emissions associated with coal combustion have been modelled in this analysis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mine</th>
<th>Estimated maximum CO₂ emissions from coal combustion (million tonnes per annum)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alpha Coal mine</td>
<td>64.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpha North mine</td>
<td>85.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpha West mine</td>
<td>51.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carmichael mine</td>
<td>128.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China First mine</td>
<td>85.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China Stone Project</td>
<td>128.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degulla mine</td>
<td>74.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin’s Corner mine</td>
<td>57.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Galilee Coal Project</td>
<td>28.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>705.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4: Estimated maximum CO₂ emissions combustion of Galilee Basin mine’s coal
### Appendix 2: Current and proposed coal ports in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area

The table below summarises the current capacity and throughput, and the number of vessels currently visiting coal export ports along the Great Barrier Reef coast between Gladstone and Cape York, and the predicted capacity and predicted total vessels based on the expansion plans currently being proposed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gladstone Area</th>
<th>Throughput 2011 (tonnes)</th>
<th>Current capacity (mtpa)</th>
<th>Proposed capacity (mtpa)</th>
<th>FY 2011 vessels</th>
<th>Predicted vessels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barney Point Coal Terminal</td>
<td>4146</td>
<td>8147</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>64146</td>
<td>129149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RG Tanna Coal Terminal</td>
<td>49150</td>
<td>70151</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>576152</td>
<td>818153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wiggins Island Coal Export</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terminal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yarwun Coal Terminal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>640</td>
<td>2382</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fitzroy Delta</th>
<th>Throughput 2011 (tonnes)</th>
<th>Current capacity (mtpa)</th>
<th>Proposed capacity (mtpa)</th>
<th>FY 2011 vessels</th>
<th>Predicted vessels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fitzroy Terminal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>245159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balaclava Island</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>318161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>57</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>563</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Port of Hay Point</th>
<th>Throughput 2011 (tonnes)</th>
<th>Current capacity (mtpa)</th>
<th>Proposed capacity (mtpa)</th>
<th>FY 2011 vessels</th>
<th>Predicted vessels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hay Point Coal terminal</td>
<td>33162</td>
<td>44163</td>
<td>75164</td>
<td>892165</td>
<td>1625166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal</td>
<td>55187</td>
<td>85186</td>
<td>85169</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dudgeon Point Coal Terminals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>892</td>
<td>3625</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbot Point</th>
<th>Throughput 2011 (tonnes)</th>
<th>Current capacity (mtpa)</th>
<th>Proposed capacity (mtpa)</th>
<th>FY 2011 vessels</th>
<th>Predicted vessels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Terminal 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>441173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terminal 1</td>
<td>15174</td>
<td>50175</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>190176</td>
<td>631177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terminal 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terminal 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waratah Coal Terminal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>4821</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cape York</th>
<th>Throughput 2011 (tonnes)</th>
<th>Current capacity (mtpa)</th>
<th>Proposed capacity (mtpa)</th>
<th>FY 2011 vessels</th>
<th>Predicted vessels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wongai</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10188</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GBR Coal Ports Total</th>
<th>Throughput 2011 (tonnes)</th>
<th>Current capacity (mtpa)</th>
<th>Proposed capacity (mtpa)</th>
<th>FY 2011 vessels</th>
<th>Predicted vessels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>1,055.5</td>
<td>1,722</td>
<td>11,401</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5: Current and proposed coal export ports and terminals in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
Notes

32. The Federal Environment Minister gave approval to the Alpha Coal Project on 23 August 2012. The conditions associated with this approval are available on the EPBC Referral website: http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/epbc/epbc_ap.pl?name=current_renewal_detail&proposal_id=4648
33. GVK 2012. GVK's Coal Assets - 10th Annual Coal Markets Singapore presentation Paul Mulder, Managing Director – Coal 22 February.
Cooking the Climate Wrecking the Reef
The global impact of coal exports from Australia's Galilee Basin

Section
Notes


43 GVK 2011. Kevin’s Corner Project EIS. Volume 1. Section 02 Project Description.

44 GVK 2011. Kevin’s Corner Project EIS. Volume 1. Section 02 Project Description.

45 GVK 2011. Kevin’s Corner Project EIS. Volume 1. Section 02 Project Description.

46 GVK 2011. Kevin’s Corner Project EIS. Volume 1, Section 09 Terrestrial Ecology.

47 GVK 2011. Kevin’s Corner Project EIS. Volume 1, Section 09 Terrestrial Ecology.

48 GVK 2011. Kevin’s Corner Project EIS. Volume 1, Section 09 Terrestrial Ecology.

49 GVK 2011. Kevin’s Corner Project EIS. Volume 1, Section 09 Terrestrial Ecology.

50 GVK 2011. Kevin’s Corner Project EIS. Volume 1, Section 09 Terrestrial Ecology.


60 Minerology is a private company, but links to some of Palmer’s interests are provided via http://www.minerology.com.au/main.html


66 For more information about the environmental values and history of the Bimblebox Nature refuge, see http://bimblebox.org/

67 For more information about the environmental values and history of the Bimblebox Nature refuge, see http://bimblebox.org/

68 For Vale’s Australian operations, see http://www.integracoal.com.au/


112 Hancock Prospecting Pty Ltd 2010 Alpha Coal Project EIS Vol.1, Executive Summary


118 Proponent stated 6,000 kcal/kg (adb) in following reference. Estimated TM and IM of 16% and 8% respectively used to derive GAR calorific value. Waratah Coal 2012 China First Project website http://www.waratahcoal.com/china-first-coal-project.htm (accessed 15th June 2012)


121 Estimated to be the same as product from the Alpha Coal Project

122 Adani 2011. Adani Group in Australia presentation delivered by Samir Vora 7th October 2011

123 Adani 2011. Adani Group in Australia presentation delivered by Samir Vora 7th October 2011

124 Adani 2011. Adani Group in Australia presentation delivered by Samir Vora 7th October 2011

125 Estimate based on weighted average of coal product from other mines. Adani were contacted and offered the opportunity to provide an intended calorific value for the product from the Carmichael mine. At the time of going to print (6 weeks later) no answer has been received.


128 Waratah Coal 2011. China First EIS Volume 1, Chapter 1, page 12

129 Waratah Coal 2011. China First EIS Volume 1, Chapter 1, page 12


133 Estimate based on weighted average of coal product from other mines


135 Estimate based on weighted average of coal product from other mines


140 SGCP 2012. Development of the Galilee Basin – an opportunity for a collaborative approach. Presentation by Rob McNamara to the Central Highlands Conference

141 SGCP 2012. Development of the Galilee Basin – an opportunity for a collaborative approach. Presentation by Rob McNamara to the Central Highlands Conference

142 SGCP 2012. Development of the Galilee Basin – an opportunity for a collaborative approach. Presentation by Rob McNamara to the Central Highlands Conference

143 Converted from ADB preferred product as presented in SGCP 2012 Development of the Galilee Basin – an opportunity for a collaborative approach. Presentation by Rob McNamara to the Central Highlands Conference


147 GPC 2011. Port of Gladstone Information Handbook 2011 Docs #513911
Calculated maximum: number of vessels required to achieve terminal maximum throughput tonnage based on 2011 vessel average capacity

Calculated maximum: number of vessels required to achieve terminal future maximum throughput tonnage based on 2011 vessel average capacity

Connell Hatch 2006. Wiggins Island Coal Terminal Environmental Impact Statement. CQPA and QR


QC Consulting Group 2011. Fitzroy Terminal Project Initial Advice Statement

GHD 2009 Balaclava Island Coal Export Terminal Initial Advice Statement. Xstrata Coal Queensland Document ID: 41/20584/19/379002

Balaclava Island Coal Export Terminal Initial Advice Statement does not contain a prediction of ship numbers. Stated maximum capacity of vessels visiting terminal is 110,000 tonnes. Therefore number of 110,000 capacity vessels to export 35 mtpa represents the minimum number of vessels required for terminal to operate at capacity.


North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation Limited 2011. Dudgeon Point Coal Terminals Project: Initial Advice Statement

Adani Abbot Point Terminal Pty 2010. EPBC Act Referral: Abbot Point Coal Terminal 0 EPBC ReferralNumber: 2011/6184


Hancock Coal Infrastructure Pty Ltd 2011 Abbot Point Coal Terminal 3 Referral Reference 2008/4468 Section 156A Request to vary a proposal to take an action. Letter dated 15 July 2011. Appendix A

Hancock Coal Infrastructure Pty Ltd 2011 Abbot Point Coal Terminal 3 Referral Reference 2008/4468 Section 156A Request to vary a proposal to take an action. Letter dated 15 July 2011. Appendix A


Estimate based on scaling the number of vessels projected for the similarly large Dudgeon Point Coal Terminals Project


The Wongai Project Initial Advice Statement states that the project will be visited by one coal ship per month and will operate for 10 months of the year.
Balaclava Island, in the pristine Fitzroy River delta at the southern end of Keppel Bay, where a new coal port is proposed to be built.

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