



**HD** Mining magnate Gina Rinehart close to finalising deal to **buy** more Kimberley cattle stations as she expands Western Australian beef empire

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Mining magnate Gina Rinehart is weeks away from completing the purchase of in Western Australia's Kimberley region in the state's far north.

There are several conditions yet to be met before the deal is signed off, and ABC Rural understands the main sticking point is a request to increase the allowable number of cattle to be run on the properties.

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The request to increase stocking densities is being assessed by the WA Pastoral **Board**.

The stations are Moola Bulla, Mt Amhurst, Beefwood Park and Shamrock Station.

These will become part of , the **company** born when Ms Rinehart's **company** Hancock Prospecting bought into the Liveringa and Nerrima stations in July.

That **company**, which is joint owned with WA **company** Milne AgriGroup includes an abattoir at Waroona in the state's south-west.

Milne AgriGroup is owned by the Laitt family, and when the joint-venture was struck Graham Laitt said it was expected that cattle production on those two stations would double.

"It's targeting growing beef production in the north of WA and positioning ourselves, and the state, for the opportunities in Asia and the north-Asian markets," Mr Laitt said.

Last week, Hancock Prospecting announced plans to spend nearly half a **billion** dollars on a **dairy** venture in

The latest acquisition is another development in the so-called 'mining to dining' boom, a term coined when fellow **billionaire** mining magnate in May.

The Harvey Beef **business** also includes an abattoir in WA's south-west, the only one in the state accredited to send boxed beef to **China**.

Mr Forrest has developed a collaboration between 100 private companies, corporate entities and governments both here and in .

**CO** hkpros : Hancock Prospecting Pty. Ltd.

**IN** i211 : Metal Ore Mining | ibasicm : Basic Materials/Resources | imet : Mining/Quarrying

**NS** ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

**RE** austr : Australia | waustr : Western Australia | apacz : Asia Pacific | ausnz : Australia/Oceania

**IPD** gina

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