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**HD** Oz court gives conditional clearance to GVK **coal** project  
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<p>The Land Court of Queensland has granted conditional clearance to \$10 **billion coal** project near Bowen in Australia being developed by the GVK group. </p><p>In 2011, GVK had acquired 79 per cent **stake** in the Alpha **Coal** and Alpha West projects and 100 per cent **stake** in the Kevin's Corner project in Queensland from Hancock Prospecting Pty Ltd. The Alpha **Coal** Mine is located in the Galilee Basin and the extraction is expected to begin by 2016. An annual output of 32 **million** tonne is anticipated once it is fully operational. </p><p>GVK welcomed recommendations from the Land Court that the environmental authority (clearance) and **mining** lease for the Alpha **Coal** project to be granted subject to conditions. "We fully understand the significant benefits our projects will bring to the region and will continue to work with the environmental regulators in relation to these recommendations," GVK said in a statement.

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<p><p>Farmers and landowners in the area claim the Alpha mine and others will draw too much water away from farmland. Collieries require large quantities of water for washing **coal** before its is shipped, as well as for suppressing dust. </p><p>In December 2013, GVK Hancock received the Australian government's nod for Abbot Point Port Capital Dredging programme. In May 2013, the Queensland government vetted environmental clearance for this project and in 2012 for the Alpha Mine and Rail projects. "The provincial government will have to issue us the **mining** lease for Alpha project." The **coal** projects will provide direct employment to around 7,500 people across the region, state and nation during construction, and almost 4,000 once operational, contributing over \$40 **billion** in taxes and royalties over the life of the mines. </p><p>Other proposed mines in the Galilee Basin include ones by **China** First and India's Adani Enterprises. The conditional recommendation follows a six-month court challenge initiated by farmers and community groups.</p>

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