

Section 22

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From: Section 22
Sent: Monday, 1 June 2015 12:41 PM
To: FG IID Infrastructure Regional and Agriculture Unit; Section 22
Subject: RE: NAIF questions at Estimates this morning [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Section 22 asked for some further background on the Galilee Basin, so I thought I'd just send it to everyone.

The Basin

At 247,000 square kilometres, the Galilee Basin has the potential to become the largest coal-producing region in Queensland.

It's located about 200 kilometres west of Mackay / south of Townsville. There's 27,750 million tonnes of coal in the region - it has been touted as one of the largest coal basins in the world.

Note that it straddles the Tropic of Capricorn. Here is a map:

http://www.adanimining.com/Common/Uploads/MineLocationTemplate/1_Download_west_qld_coal_map_10.pdf

Who wants to develop it?

GVK (an Indian company) and Hancock Coal (Gina Rinehart) have proposed the Alpha project and Kevin's corner. Adani (an Indian conglomerate) is behind the \$16 billion Carmichael project. This would be the biggest mines in Australia if developed.

Waratah Coal (Clive Palmer) has two projects in the Basin.

AMCI Coal is behind another mine.

Finally there's a couple of power stations proposed.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-03-15/galilee-basin-explainer/6315654>

Has there been any public commentary about it?

Climate change activists have called for the Basin to be left undeveloped due to the carbon emissions that would be produced by the coal. They have been pressuring financial institutions to divest from projects in the Basin. This article summarises the arguments - <https://www.greenleft.org.au/node/59076>

Environmental concerns have also been raised about the proposed coal terminal at Abbott Point and its direct impact from dredging etc. on the Great Barrier Reef.

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To: FG IID Infrastructure Regional and Agriculture Unit; Section 22
Subject: NAIF questions at Estimates this morning [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Questions from Senator Larissa Waters (Greens, QLD).

Has MEG had any input into the NAIF?

- No we haven't.

Did MEG have input into the assumptions in the IA Nthrn Audit?

- Sits with FG. Not I'm aware.

There's one assumption which aspires to boost coal exports by a certain amount by a certain date. Would MEG be consulted on this?

- Not that I'm aware of.

Gallilee Basin, Abbott Point, coal projects. Have any of your staff spoken with the big four banks about this?

- No.

Have any of your staff asked the banks to make public statements about financing or not financing these projects?

- No.

To the Minister, has any one else in Government contacted the banks about these projects?

- Taken on notice.

Has anyone in the Dept contacted Commonwealth Bank about protests last week about divestment?

- No one in MEG.

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Industries and Infrastructure Division

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