

No stopping rail link plans

MORANBAH: THE Eagle Downs mine project will not utilise the billion-dollar missing link rail project or Abbot Point Coal Terminal after its two owners could not come to an agreement over infrastructure plans last week.

But their move will not affect the rail project and its construction will begin next month as planned.

The disagreement

between Vale and Aquila Resources, which are joint proprietors of the mine near Moranbah that is expected to start producing coal in 2013, has put it “in a state of limbo”.

Aquila Resources chief executive officer Tony Poli said Aquila was “very supportive” of the proposed agreements with Queensland Rail (QR) and Abbot Point but Vale was not, which resulted in the

demise of any deal with QR.

“So currently the project has no rail or port capacity,” Mr Poli said.

“It puts the project in a state of limbo.

“Vale believe that the upgraded Dalrymple Bay coal terminal is a better option,” he said.

“The issue with that is that the expansion of Dalrymple Bay is at a very early stage.”

– AAP