



Whyalla News
Thursday 6/3/2008
Page: 1
Section: General News
Region: Whyalla SA Circulation: 4,445
Type: Regional
Size: 132.56 sq.cms.
Published: M--T---

Brief: IMXRES(P)

Mining companies push for port facilities

Four mining companies with near term iron ore export plans for their South Australian projects have formed the Port Bonython Bulk Users Group, an umbrella organisation whose principal objective is to advance the development of a common user export port facility at Port Bonython.

The companies are Centrex Metals, IMX Resources, Ironclad Mining, and Western Plains Resources.

The Port Bonython Bulk Users Group believes there could be demand for up to eight to 10 million tonnes per annum capacity by 2010 and up to about 20 million by 2015.

The group's view is that these tonnages are sufficient to underpin the development of the port without further delay, and without waiting for a commitment to

the expansion of the Olympic Dam project by its owners.

The projections ignore potential increases in production that may occur and other discoveries that may lead to viable mining projects, which could make these estimates conservative.

Port Bonython is currently used for the export of LPG and crude oil from the Cooper Basin.

The site is suitable for the construction of an iron ore loader and storage sheds, and could easily be connected to the standard gauge rail network.

The current 2.4km jetty allows for berthing of Capesize vessels.

The Port Bonython Bulk Users Group will work with the South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy Inc, the Resources and Energy Sectors

Infrastructure Council (RESIC - a high level taskforce that has been set up by the government and industry to ensure South Australia capitalises on a resource sector that is moving rapidly from exploration to extraction), local and state government authorities, port operators, infrastructure developers, other current and potential users of the port, and other stakeholders, to expedite the development of this key item of essential infrastructure.

The Port Bonython Bulk Users Group is well aware of the environmental sensitivities at Port Bonython, as well as the Australian Defence Force's plans for the Cultana area.

The group is confident that the proposed port facility will not adversely impact on these issues.