

GERALDTON IRON ORE ALLIANCE WELCOMES WA GOVERNMENT'S CONFIRMATION OF OAKAJEE AS PREFERRED PORT SITE

The members of the Geraldton Iron Ore Alliance said today (Wednesday) they welcomed the confirmation by the Western Australian Government of Oakajee, north of Geraldton, as the preferred site for a new privately funded deep-water port to accommodate the rapidly expanding iron ore industry in the Mid West region of the State.

Commenting on the announcement, Chairman of the Geraldton Alliance, Mr Clive Brown, said the Government's decision was a great boost to the members of the Alliance, each of which had iron ore projects in the region currently planned or under feasibility study of which four members would be looking to have a new deep-water port operational by 2010.

"The Government's decision to appoint a Government steering group, overseen by a special committee of relevant Ministers, to prepare a report on the design process, timing of construction and the operational management of the proposed port at Oakajee is very encouraging," he said.

"We look forward to providing input into the committee's deliberations, particularly in respect of the roles of Government and the private sector in funding and the regulatory access and management of key port and rail infrastructure."

"It is our belief that, given cooperation on the provision of adequate infrastructure, Western Australia's Mid West has the potential to emerge over the next decade as Australia's second most significant iron ore producing region, exporting some fifty to sixty million tonnes of iron ore per year," Mr Brown added.

The Geraldton Iron Ore Alliance, which consists of Midwest Corporation Ltd, Murchison Metals Ltd, Gindalbie Metals Limited, Mt Gibson Iron Limited and Golden West Resources Limited, was formed in late 2005 to take a coordinated approach to the common-user infrastructure development and stakeholder relations required to unlock the full potential of Australia's fastest growing new iron ore province.

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**On behalf of:
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