

## **PORT HEDLAND BERTH RESERVATION TO NORTH WEST IRON ORE ALLIANCE**

The North West Iron Ore Alliance has secured a key strategic plank of the infrastructure required to support the emergence of a new generation of iron ore producers in the Pilbara region after the Western Australian Minister for Planning and Infrastructure Hon Alannah MacTiernan in consultation with the Port Hedland Port Authority confirmed the reservation of two new multi-user berths in the Port Hedland inner harbour for use by Alliance members and other potential junior producers.

The two berths earmarked for the Alliance members and other junior producers subject to certain conditions precedent, would have the capacity for up to 50 million tonnes of iron ore exports per annum, sufficient to cater for the initial production of its member companies - Atlas Iron Limited, BC Iron Limited, Brockman Resources Limited, and FerrAus Limited.

It is expected that the two berths and associated port infrastructure may be operational as early as 2012. The ultimate long term capacity is envisaged to be accommodated as part of the Outer Harbour development, which in itself is yet to be approved.

In welcoming the announcement, the Independent Chair of the North West Iron Ore Alliance, Megan Anwyl, said the port capacity reservation represented a major breakthrough for the junior companies that make up the Alliance, and demonstrated the Government's strong commitment towards the diversification of the iron ore industry.

"Minister MacTiernan and the Port Hedland Port Authority CEO, Andre Bush, should be congratulated for their efforts to maximise access to the inner harbour for the benefit of the State," Ms Anwyl said.

"This is a very important step forward for the Alliance and confirms our position within the Government's long-term vision for the continued development and expansion of the port at Port Hedland," she continued. "This is proof that collaboration brings benefits."

"The Alliance has already received Expressions of Interest from engineering companies to conduct a detailed Scoping Study for the port development work required for the new berths and associated infrastructure," Ms Anwyl added. "We expect to announce the appointment of the preferred Project Manager shortly."

"This is further excellent news for communities in the Pilbara, as increased diversity in the iron ore industry will bring real benefits to improve the lifestyles of Pilbara residents," she commented.

The North West Iron Ore Alliance was formed in 2007 to support the development of a junior iron ore sector in the Pilbara. The member companies – Atlas Iron, BC Iron, Brockman Resources and FerrAus – have agreed to cooperate on issues such as infrastructure development and access, statutory approvals and community development.

Collectively the members of the North West Iron Ore Alliance have the potential to deliver over 50 million tonnes of iron ore per annum by 2014, generating in excess of \$220 million in State royalties per annum.

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## **Background on members of the North West Iron Ore Alliance:**

### **Atlas Iron Limited - [www.atlasiron.com.au](http://www.atlasiron.com.au)**

Atlas Iron (ASX: AGO) has one of the largest land holdings in the Pilbara region covering over 6,000km<sup>2</sup>. The Company is preparing to commence production of direct shipping grade iron ore (DSO) resources from Pardoo Project, 75km from the public access port at Port Hedland, in the second half of 2008. Targeting production of 1 million tonnes per annum in its first year of operation, Atlas is forecasting its production at Pardoo will grow to 3 million tonnes per annum by 2010 with further substantial growth expected on the basis of its aggressive ongoing exploration effort. Atlas has recently upgraded its exploration target to 120-180 million tonnes.

### **BC Iron Limited - [www.bcion.com.au](http://www.bcion.com.au)**

BC Iron (ASX: BCI) is focused on the exploration and development of channel iron deposits within its Nullagine Project in the Pilbara. A major exploration program commenced in April 2007 over the Bonnie Creek and Nullagine River CIDs, and, in March 2008, BC Iron announced a Channel Iron Deposit resource of 47.2Mt at 53.6% Fe (61.5% CaFe) at Nullagine, including a high-grade DSO resource of 28.0Mt grading 57.4% Fe (65.1% CaFe). The Company is conducting a Scoping Study on an initial 3Mtpa DSO operation at the Bonnie Creek CID Project.

### **Brockman Resources - [www.brockmanresources.com.au](http://www.brockmanresources.com.au)**

Brockman Resources Limited (formerly Yilgarn Mining Limited) is focused on the exploration and development of its 100%-owned Marillana Project, located 100km north of Newman in the Pilbara, where the total Mineral Resource now exceeds 1.1 billion tonnes of iron ore, and the Company is aggressively targeting iron ore production by 2009. Brockman has recently completed a Scoping Study on a proposed 10Mtpa iron ore project and is conducting a Feasibility Study based on its expanded resource base which is due for completion in early 2009.

### **FerrAus Limited - [www.ferraus.com](http://www.ferraus.com)**

FerrAus is an emerging developer of iron ore and other ferrous raw materials. Its wholly owned, strategic foothold in the under-explored, highly prospective new iron ore sub-province in the East Pilbara region encompasses over 560km<sup>2</sup> with a potential strike length of 30-40km. The priority project is Roberston Range where continuous drilling and evaluation campaigns since late 2005 have yielded a significant resource with the expectation of continued expansion as a result of further planned drilling programmes.