

Information Sheet

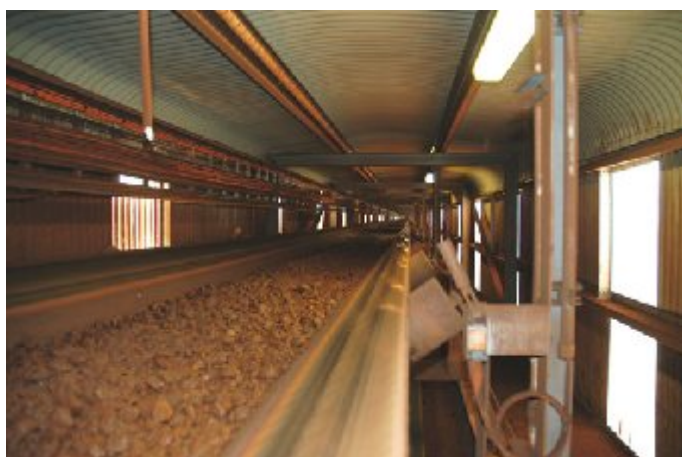


ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Esperance Ports Sea and Land (EPSL) and Cliffs Asia Pacific Iron Ore (Cliffs) are committed to responsible environmental management of its operations at all times. EPSL and Cliffs have investigated the potential environmental impacts associated with increasing the export of iron ore from 8.8 Million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) to 11.5Mtpa, particularly dust, noise and vegetation clearing.

Dust

The iron ore handling systems at the Esperance Port are enclosed and ongoing maintenance of dust control equipment is conducted to ensure optimum operational performance. As a consequence of the enclosed handling systems, the proposed increase in iron ore export is not expected to significantly increase the amount of dust generated at the Esperance Port. Minor enhancements proposed to the iron ore circuit will only improve the existing dust control measures. *For more details refer to the Dust Management Information Sheet.*



Above: The enclosed iron ore conveyors at Esperance Port

Noise

During the initial stages of the proposal, several options to reduce the impact of train noise on the community were assessed. This led to Cliffs' proposal to replace the older, noisier L-class locomotive with quieter Q-class and AC-class locomotives. The replacement of the older, noisier locomotives will significantly reduce the noise levels experienced at residences. *For more details refer to the Noise Management Information Sheet.*



Above: An iron ore vessel being loaded at Berth 3 of Esperance Port.

Vegetation Clearing

Proposed upgrades to the rail track (a combination of new and replacement track) will be contained within the existing rail reserve. There will be a need for a small amount of vegetation clearing (~1.1 hectares) to allow the construction and safe operation of the rail line. Specialist environmental consultants GHD Pty Ltd, have completed a botanical assessment of the area proposed for clearing and concluded that the vegetation is degraded. The proposed Sims Street road traffic bridge will be built within the existing road reserve and no clearing of vegetation is anticipated. Consultation is being undertaken with adjacent property owners and the Shire of Esperance regarding the proposal at Sims Street.

OVERVIEW

- Minimising the potential environmental impacts on the Esperance community is a priority for Cliffs and EPSL.
- The potential increase in export of iron ore to 11.5Mtpa will not significantly increase the amount of iron ore dust generated at the Esperance Port.
- The proposal would result in lower overall noise levels at locations along the rail line and at residential areas, due to the replacement of the older, noisier L-class locomotives with quieter Q and AC class locomotives
- A small amount of clearing of degraded vegetation (approximately 1.1 hectares) is required to allow the construction and safe operation of the rail line.
- No clearing of vegetation is required to construct the Sims Street road traffic bridge.