



Esperance Port Authority

Media Statement

Wednesday, 30 May 2007

ESPERANCE PORT CEO RETIRES

Esperance Port Authority CEO Colin Stewart announced today he will retire at the end of July, this year.

Mr Stewart, who will turn 60 in October, has been Port CEO for 23 years.

Port Chairman Jim Matijasevich said the Board would instigate a national recruitment process immediately to find a suitable replacement for Mr Stewart and ensure a smooth transition.

Mr Matijasevich paid tribute to Mr Stewart who had overseen the Port's growth to one of the most vibrant regional ports in Australia.

"Colin has overseen the growth of the Port from a workforce of 14 when he first started, to a workforce of around 100 Esperance residents today and shipping more than eight million tonnes per annum," Mr Matijasevich said.

"He first arrived in Esperance in 1971, has been a permanent resident since 1980 and raised his family in the town. He has played a significant role in other community activities, most recently as Chairman of the Goldfields Esperance Development Commission."

Mr Stewart said that he wanted to pay tribute to and thank the Port staff and contractors who had supported him and the Port's rapid growth.

"They have expended tremendous energy and effort towards developing effective and safe methods at the Port. I particularly thank all employees for their great support and assistance during the recent difficult times experienced by all Esperance residents," Mr Stewart said.

He said that he made the decision to retire several weeks ago in consultation with his family.

"In order to best pursue the challenges facing the Port, I am of the view that by stepping aside the board and my successor will be best able to plan and implement changes," he said.

Mr Stewart told staff he would continue living in Esperance and hoped to continue to contribute in whatever way possible to the development of "this great town and region".

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