



# ESPERANCE PORTS

## *Sea & Land*

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Media Release

### **Former WA Governor to head MUIOF Evaluation Panel**

The Esperance Port Authority Board is pleased to announce the appointment of the former Governor of Western Australia, Dr Ken Michael AC, as chairman the Multi-user Iron Ore Facility (MUIOF) evaluation panel.

“As well as a widely respected former Governor, Dr Michael brings extensive engineering and government experience to the role as a former Commissioner of Main Roads of WA and member of the Economic Regulation Authority,” said Board Chairman Bob McKinnon.

“The Evaluation Panel has been convened to assess the respondents to the Registration of Interest and Prequalification of private consortia to build, own and operate an expanded iron ore export facility at Esperance Port.”

Mr McKinnon said a formal recommendation on a short list of two or three consortia to go forward to a Request for Proposal (RFP) will be made to the Minister by the Board in May.

“It is anticipated that the preferred MUIOF proponent should be known by the last quarter of 2013 after completion of the RFP process,” he said.

“This will be followed by financial close with the proponent’s funders allowing construction to commence.”

Port CEO Shayne Flanagan reiterated that Esperance Port has never at any stage given an estimate of the expected capital cost of the MUIOF Project.

“The size and cost of the expanded facility will not be known until bankable take or pay contracts can be secured by the proponent with potential users of the MUIOF,” Mr Flanagan said.

“Any estimates of MUIOF that are in the public domain are from parties other than Esperance Port.”

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