



# ESPERANCE PORTS

## *Sea & Land*

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Media Release

### **Business Backs Esperance Port Upgrade Study**

Esperance Port has been encouraged by the response it has received since calling for the private sector to register their interest in designing, financing, building and operating a new multi-user iron ore facility at the Port.

Port CEO Shayne Flanagan said that 27 entities had registered their interest in the project, including some from major finance houses, engineering firms and companies experienced in building and operating ports.

He said interested parties have until Friday, March 1, to register and pre-qualify to be considered for short-listing to tender for a Request for Proposal that will progress the project.

“Despite recent media speculation about possible proponents and project costs, the scope of the project will determine what new export infrastructure will be required at the Port and its cost,” Mr Flanagan said.

“The scope can only be finalised and the cost determined after the shortlisted proponents determine the capacity of infrastructure required by the mining companies, and the companies are comfortable with signing long-term take or pay contracts.”

A process was in place for the short-listed companies to be announced by the end of April.

“Between April and the third quarter this year the Port will conduct a tender process to select the preferred proponent who has the financial and operational abilities to meet the demand for new export infrastructure at the Port,” Mr Flanagan said.

“During this period the Port will facilitate the flow of information from all the mining companies to the short-listed proponents to maximise the multi-user opportunity the project will provide.

“We will also communicate with the market during this time to manage expectations about the process, outline risks and give the mining companies the opportunity to be in a financial position to participate in the process.”

Mr Flanagan said Esperance Port was committed to a fair and competitive selection process, one that would deliver the best results for potential users of the facility as well as the State Government, who owns the Port.

“The process to determine the scope of the project, and to deliver the best outcomes to the participants will take time and needs to be done to deliver long-term benefits, not a short-term fix,” he said.

Mr Flanagan said he was confident the process will be undertaken to the highest commercial standards and that the project deadlines will be met.

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