

Media Release

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Esperance Port Multi User Iron Ore Facility: Short-listed Consortia Announced

Two of five consortia that registered an interest in participating in a Request for Proposal (RFP) to design, finance, build and operate a new multi-user iron ore facility (MUIOF) at the Esperance Port have been short-listed to tender for the project.

Port Chairman, Bob McKinnon announced today that two consortia have been short-listed to participate in the RFP phase of the Project:

- Qube Bulk Pty Ltd and Brookfield Infrastructure (Australia) Pty Ltd, and
- Yilgarn Esperance Solution (YES) consortium. YES consortium comprises McConnell Dowell Constructors (Aust) Pty Ltd, Asciano and Marubeni Corporation Ltd.

Mr McKinnon said an evaluation panel under the independent chairmanship of Dr Ken Michael had unanimously agreed that the two selected consortia had best addressed the project objectives in their proposals and clearly demonstrated that they met the evaluation criteria required to proceed.

The criteria included experience in bulk port operations, a clear understanding of the MUIOF project, the financial capability and capacity, and design and construction experience in similar types of projects.

“The Registration of Interest and Prequalification phase attracted strong interest from the private sector and the evaluation panel’s recommendation has been endorsed by the Government’s Public Private Partnership Steering Committee and by the Esperance Port Authority’s Board of Directors,” Mr McKinnon said.

“The short-listed consortia have significant experience in infrastructure investment as well as designing, financing and operating major projects related to the movement and handling of large volumes of bulk products.”

Shayne Flanagan, Chief Executive Officer of the Esperance Ports Sea and Land welcomed the announcement of the shortlist by the Chairman and said that a key feature of the MUIOF is that it will be designed and developed by the private sector. Accordingly, the scope and capital costs of the project will be identified by the private sector, based on its view of the level of commercially sustainable demand for iron ore export capacity through the Port.

A market sounding was undertaken by the Port in 2012 to determine private sector interest in the project. This followed a demand study which indicated a need for new iron ore export infrastructure to cater for proposed miners wishing to develop their tenements in the Yilgarn Region of Western Australia. The market sounding indicated the MUIOF can cater for up to 12 million tonnes of iron ore annually if developed.

Media Contact: David Griffiths - Gryphon Management Australia Ltd
Telephone: (08) 9382 8300
Email: david.griffiths@gryphon.net.au