

## SIMS STREET, RAIL & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES

Two major components of the proposal to increase exports of iron ore to 11.5 Million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) are the new road traffic bridge at Sims Street and the upgrades to the rail track and Esperance Rail Yard.

### Proposed Sims Street road traffic bridge

Iron ore trains are currently 126 wagons long but the proposal to increase exports to 11.5Mtpa would require trains that are 159 wagons long. Trains 159 wagons long would block the Sims Street crossing (Figure 1) for an extended period of time, whilst the train is broken up into 53-wagon rakes destined for the Esperance Port. To avoid this additional disruption to the Esperance community, in consultation with the Shire of Esperance, Cliffs proposes to construct a new road traffic bridge at Sims Street.



Above: Existing Sims Street road/rail crossing.

The proposed new road traffic bridge at Sims Street will be built at Cliffs cost (over \$5 million) and will allow traffic to have unimpeded, safe access across the rail line at all times. The bridge requires no additional land, hence no land acquisition or clearing is necessary for its construction.

### Changes to rail crossing activation times at other locations

Studies have concluded that of the total 6 train movements to and from the Esperance Port, there will be:

- 3 movements with a reduced crossing activation time. The reduction compared to current crossing activation time is estimated to be between 18-24 seconds;
- 2 movements with an increased crossing activation time. The increase compared to current crossing activation time is estimated to be between 1.3-1.6 minutes; and
- 1 movement with no discernible change in crossing activation time.



Above: Cliffs' iron ore trains travelling from Koolyanobbing to Esperance

### Proposed upgrades to the rail track and Esperance Rail Yard

Upgrades to the rail track (a combination of new and replacement track) to the north of the Esperance Rail Yard and within the existing Yard will be required and will be undertaken by owners and operators of the rail line, WestNet Rail and Australian Railroad Group (ARG). A new locomotive/wagon maintenance shed and a warehouse building at the Esperance Rail Yard are also proposed to service the trains.

All work associated with the rail track and Esperance Rail Yard will be undertaken within the existing rail corridor. Work on the rail track will extend from the Esperance Rail Yard to approximately 1 kilometre to the north of the Sims Street rail crossing. A small amount of clearing of degraded vegetation (1.1 hectares) is required for the safe construction and operation of the rail track to the north of Sims Street rail crossing.

### OVERVIEW

- The proposed Sims Street road traffic bridge will:
  - allow safer access to the travelling public compared to the current road/rail interface; and
  - allow free flow of traffic over the rail line at all times.
- Proposed upgrades to the rail track and Esperance Rail Yard includes:
  - new and replacement track;
  - new locomotive/wagon maintenance shed and a warehouse building.
- All proposed works will be contained within the existing road and rail reserves.