

MUIOF Website update

EPSL Logo

Market Sounding Update

8 August 2012

Good Response to Market Sounding Exercise

EPSL has received a positive response from the private sector to a market sounding exercise to determine interest in financing, building and managing a new multi-user iron ore facility (MUIOF) at the Esperance Port.

More than 60 responses were received from an advertisement published in the national and local newspapers in late June.

Esperance Port CEO Shayne Flanagan said responses came from a range of entities including a number of Yilgarn mining companies, infrastructure equity investors and major banks, major infrastructure providers, organisations familiar with the working of shipping and bulk loading facilities at ports, and multi disciplinary engineering firms.

“It is proposed that the MUIOF be funded, developed and managed by the private sector,” Mr Flanagan said

The process of information exchange has now begun. Applicants have completed the terms of participation, including confidentiality undertakings, and mining companies have updated the information they provided for a survey conducted in late 2011.

The participants have been provided with a suite of market sounding information documents to inform them about EPSL’s plans for the MUIOF.

Mr Flanagan said participants received a briefing in Perth today and they will complete a questionnaire that will provide information about their views about the planned facility.

“In the next few weeks, interviews will be conducted with selected participants to assist EPSL decide the way forward,” Mr Flanagan said.

“The overall project is now progressing towards developing a business case for government and gaining approvals to proceed to procure a preferred proponent for the project.”

The planned timing of the procurement process (if the project proceeds) remains on track and preparations are expected to commence in late 2012 with a Request For Proposal to be advertised in early 2013 and the preferred proponent being selected by the third quarter 2013.

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