



**Media Release
December 13 2010**

ECS report forecasts bright economic future

The Geraldton Iron Ore Alliance (Alliance) has launched a new report outlining the potential for the iron ore industry to provide 15,300 new jobs a year in the Mid West over the next 20 years.

The 'Mining Expansion in the Mid West: Social and Economic Benefits' report says the iron ore industry has the capacity to generate 3,540 construction jobs a year for the next 15 years and 4,490 direct jobs a year for the next 21 years, with thousands more jobs created indirectly.

The report also predicts the iron ore industry's ability to generate \$5bn a year in direct spending in the Mid West, with economic flow-on effects of \$7.4bn a year over 20 years.

Launching the report at the GIOA end-of-year function on Thursday night, Member for Geraldton Ian Blayney MLA labelled the report is a "vital piece of information" for planning the region's future.

However, stressed that the document outlined the region's potential rather than provided concrete forecasts for the future.

Mr Blayney said the development of Oakajee port and rail was critical for the potential to be realised.

"It's important to understand that the document shows that the industry can move ahead, the fundamentals are here to grow the industry," he said.

"These are good viable projects. It is obvious that Oakajee itself will have to grow in stages to accommodate them.

"The report points towards something I've never doubted – that this region faces a bright future.

"But to get the best out of it, and to do it as well as we can, it is a critical thing that all of us – individuals, companies and different levels of Government – all work together."

Alliance Chief Executive Rob Jefferies said the report conveyed the iron ore industry's intent.

"The 2010 report tells a story of new and emerging projects among Alliance members and also other mines in the adjacent Yilgan region which have the potential to link infrastructure and further support the Oakajee port and rail system in the Murchison," Mr Jefferies said.

"The outcome of the study is to show the potentials of the iron ore province and the way it may benefit the people of the Mid West."

About the Alliance:

The Geraldton Iron Ore Alliance (Alliance) has a membership of five iron ore mining companies which are at various stages of exploration and development of mines in the Mid West. These companies are:

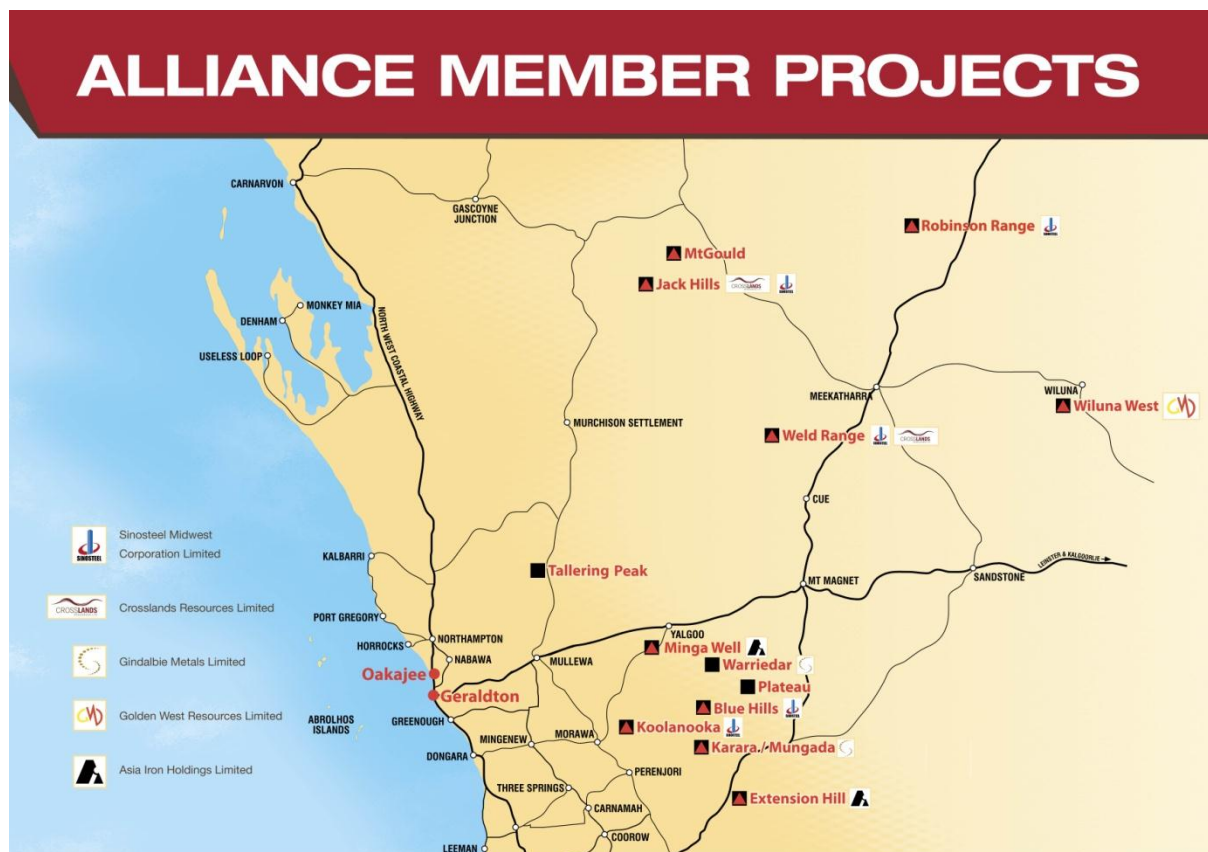
- Sinosteel Midwest Corporation Limited
- Crosslands Resources Ltd
- Gindalbie Metals Ltd
- Golden West Resources Limited
- Asia Iron Holdings Limited

The member companies that make up the Alliance are committed to developing and operating in a sustainable manner in their endeavour to establish a world class iron ore industry in the Mid West/Murchison Region of Western Australia.

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Further details of the companies and their projects is available on the GIOA website at www.gioa.com.au.