



Media Monitoring

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## Massive benefits forecast from Mid West mining projects

**Western Australia stands to gain tens of billions of dollars and thousands of new jobs from iron ore mining developments in the Mid West region.**

The major economic boost is set out in a detailed projection of the economic and social benefits that will flow from developments currently under way or in the planning stages.

The study, carried out by Economics Consulting Services, was commissioned by the Geraldton Iron Ore Alliance (GIOA), the umbrella group formed by seven companies with major iron ore related interests in the region.

GIOA Chairman Clive Brown, a former Minister for State Development, said the study highlighted an exciting opportunity for Western Australia by drawing together for the first time all the economic and social impacts of the separate projects.

“What we are looking at here is nothing less than the development of WA’s third world-scale mining province,” Mr Brown said. “This is potentially of global significance.”

“The Mid West has the capacity to rank with the Pilbara and the Goldfields in its contribution to the long-term prosperity of the State, the nation and developing economies in Australia’s region,” he said.

Mr Brown said the GIOA now identified a greater urgency than previously thought in putting essential infrastructure in place to enable all the projects to go ahead under a time frame that would meet known and foreseeable market opportunities.

“The critical factor is for us to be able to prove to potential customers that we will be able to deliver what they need when they need it, otherwise they will buy elsewhere,” he said.

“We have been working closely with the Government on matters such as key infrastructure and the project approvals processes, but we now see a clear need to accelerate matters if the Mid West is to achieve its potential.

Mr Brown said that in the short-term there was an urgent need to upgrade logistical delivery infrastructure at Geraldton Port for smaller scale projects.

“However, one of the highest priorities is the development of Oakajee Port,” he said. “Geraldton will continue to be used, but its port cannot be expanded enough to meet the needs of all the Mid West mining projects.”



“Everything hangs on the availability of sufficient port capacity. Without that, we cannot convince customers of our ability to meet their requirements.

“With China’s economy continuing to grow strongly, plus growth in emerging countries, the market opening is there now. But it will close if competing suppliers are able to beat us to the punch,” Mr Brown said.

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