



Ore miners draw up own guidelines

GERALDTON Iron Ore Alliance members have demonstrated their commitment to the region by agreeing to a set of guidelines to ensure local communities are supported as the industry continues to develop.

Alliance chairman Clive Brown announced the 11 principles that underpinned the alliance's "sustainability guidelines" at the 2008 Mid West Resources Forum.

"The members have worked in collaboration to shape the guiding principles, which are based on best-practice international approaches to sustainable mine management," he said. "They have been designed to ensure that as

the industry develops further, members will continue to work to support local communities, create jobs and manage the environment in a responsible manner."

The guidelines are a first for the Mid West iron ore industry and have been welcomed by Shire of Morawa chief executive Gavin Treasure, who said he was pleased to see the GIOA taking the initiative to introduce a set of industry guidelines.

"As a key community in the evolving southern iron ore mining sector, Morawa continues to work very hard with mining companies to ensure that the important social elements of project sustainability are delivered for

the benefit of current and future generations," he said.

"The adoption of these principles offers a platform in which Mid West communities impacted by new mine development and expansion are able to negotiate and establish real outcomes to ensure that mining is an integral part of local communities now and well into the future."

The release of the Sustainability Principles is the first step towards the development of industry key performance indicators to allow the tangible measurement of sustainability outcomes.

Alliance principles for sustainable mining

- Contribute to sustainable mine management through collaboration, partnerships, and knowledge-sharing between members of the Alliance and partnering organisations.
- Demonstrate industry leadership in implementation of ethical business practices and sound systems of corporate governance.
- Integrate sustainable development within the corporate decision-making process, recognising the environmental qualities of Mid West-Murchison region and try to provide it with a lasting economic and social legacy.
- Demonstrate respect for the cultures, customs and values of employees, community members and others who are affected by our activities.
- Implement risk management strategies based on valid data and sound science.
- Seek continual improvement of our health and safety performance.
- Continual improvement of environmental performance, while meeting industry best practice standards.
- Contribute to conservation of biodiversity and integrated approaches to land use planning around our projects.
- Facilitate, encourage responsible design, use, re-use, recycling, and disposal of products. Practice water and energy efficiency and responsible management of carbon emissions.
- Contribute to regional growth through social, economic and institutional development of the communities.
- Transparent engagement, with communities and stakeholders. (Summarised version.)



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Geraldton Iron Ore Alliance chairman Clive Brown