



Resources eye MW microcosm

VIVIENNE RYAN

GERALDTON'S backyard is being used as a case study for the nation's resources boom.

That was the idea behind the recent Mining in the Mid West conference, held in Perth and commissioned by Sydney's Tonkin Corporation.

"The region is a good microcosm for the resource boom," Tonkin research analyst Will Harvey said about the Mid West.

"Our topics are generated on industry research and the conference was the perfect event for us as it has emerging companies and a growing industry."

The conference included all players in the region's iron ore industry, from China's Perth consul-general Li Shuganag, infrastructure players Oakajee Port and Rail and Yilgarn Infrastructure, the Australia China Business Council, iron ore miners, the Environmental Protection Authority, Depart-

ment of Environment and Conservation, Geraldton Port and the Mid West Development Commission.

Sixty-five delegates attended the conference which was dominated by infrastructure and environmental concerns.

Mr Harvey said the conference came about because the Mid West's fledgling iron ore industry was attracting a lot of attention as it had competitive players, foreign investment and was not as mature as the Pilbara.

"Although the Pilbara is 10 times the size of the Mid West, the Pilbara is locked down," Mr Harvey said.

Mid West Development Commission chief executive Steve Douglas said the conference generated a lot of discussion.

"There is a lot of interest in the Mid West which opens the

doors to talk about other things which are happening in the region, like the SKA project," Mr Douglas said.

Mr Douglas spoke on securing the future in the Mid West through the iron ore industry and said anyone looking to come to the region should be talking to the commission.

Geraldton Iron Ore Alliance chairman Clive Brown said he was pleasantly surprised by the attendance at the conference.

"People want to get a better understanding of how to seize the opportunities," Mr Brown said.

"It was interesting to hear the discussion from analysts who are very buoyant about the iron ore industry."

The Tonkin Corporation is an independent commercial company which holds conferences on leading issues in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

“

There is a lot of interest in the Mid West which opens the doors to talk about other things...

— STEVE DOUGLAS
MW DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION