



Resourcestocks

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Mid-West's time is now

GERALDTON Iron Ore Alliance chairman Clive Brown called on the Western Australian Government to recognise its role in the development of the mining industry following the release of a study outlining the social and economic benefits of mining expansion in the Mid-West region.

Brown said the region has the ability to rank on a par with the Pilbara and Goldfields regions.

The study was commissioned by the alliance and prepared by Economics Consulting Services. It analyses the benefits that could flow from the development of projects by the seven exploration and mining companies that are members of the alliance. Brown, a former WA minister for state development, said the study's figures

– which are forecast over a 25-year period – are “extraordinarily impressive”.

Key benefits and impacts to come out of the study included an upfront capital investment of \$5.5 billion, which includes the development of Oakajee port, rail links and slurry pipelines. Operating costs over the 25-year period are estimated at \$36 billion and gross sales revenue is forecast at \$62 billion. More than 1300 jobs a year during the construction period will be created and over 4000 direct jobs a year over the 25-year period.