



OPR chosen for Okajee Port project

Oakajee Port and Rail has been selected by the West Australian Government as the preferred proponent for the new multibillion-dollar Oakajee Port project in the state's Mid West.

OPR is a joint venture between Murchison Metals and Mitsubishi Development (a subsidiary of Mitsubishi Corp of Japan).

Its appointment follows an objective and rigorous evaluation process undertaken by the WA Government. Chief executive Christopher Eves says the group is excited about the opportunity to build one of the state's largest bulk commodity ports and unlock the potential of the Mid West.

Under its development plan, OPR also proposes to build rail infrastructure to take bulk produce, mainly iron ore, to port for export.

"The growth of the iron ore industry in the Mid West has been constrained for many years by the lack of a deepwater port," says Mr Eves.

"The new Oakajee Port project will commence with export capacity of around 35 million tonnes of iron ore per year, with further rapid expansion planned as various mining operations and other users come online."

The port project will include berths for use by commercial clients, as well as common use infrastructure such

as a channel, turning basins and breakwaters.

Mr Eves says OPR had appointed a world-class multinational consortium to underpin its bid and believes the technical and financial expertise and proven track record of the consortium members, coupled with a commitment to delivering the best outcome for the region, were key factors in securing the nomination.

"We're very pleased that the evaluation process has identified our proposal as the most robust, financially sound and beneficial to the state," he says.

"We believe our position as preferred proponent recognises our commitment to the region, the importance of an independent and open access infrastructure regime and capacity to deliver a quality service to all miners in the Mid West."

Mr Eves says he is now looking forward to working with the State Government, potential clients and Mid West stakeholders to deliver on the shared vision for the project.

"Cooperation and coordination are key elements of our approach and we're keen to work through the approvals process and finalise our design proposal to bring the new Oakajee Port project into operation as soon as possible." ■