

## AUSTRALASIA

ISSUE 74, 18 SEPTEMBER 2009

### PORT NEWS

#### Govt wants to deepen Darwin Harbour

15 September 2009

The Northern Territory Government is investigating ways to deepen parts of Darwin Harbour so large ships can enter regardless of the tides. The Government has opened tenders for a feasibility study to deepen and realign the approach to the East Arm Wharf to accommodate the increasing traffic. They have also tendered for a second study to examine the facilities at the wharf. The Government says East Arm is currently the largest live cattle export port in Australia and the main service base for the region's offshore oil and gas industry.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/15/2686589.htm?section=business>

#### Geraldton Port profits down

16 September 2009

The West Australian State Government could have to find tens of millions of dollars after revealing the Geraldton Port Authority will not be making as much money as it expected. In the forward estimates outlined in the state budget the port was expected to pay the Government about \$70 million in income tax and dividends. The Transport Minister Simon O'Brien has told parliament the figure will be revised but he could not estimate by how much. "The trade forecasts used to calculate profits over the period of the forward estimates have been impacted by changes to the timing of iron ore exports by a number of miners," he said.

<http://au.biz.yahoo.com/090915/31/28mp7.html>

#### Oil rig departs Geelong

18 September 2009

The semi submersible oil rig Kan Tan IV will be towed out of the port of Geelong on Friday by the ocean going Farstad tugs "Far Scimitar" & "Far Fosna" and two Z Peller Svitzer tugs. The duration of the tow in transit from departure at Lascelles 3 wharf (ETD 0600 hrs) to Point Richards entrance beacon is estimated to be approximately five to six hours. The channels of Geelong will be closed to all other traffic during the tenure of this transit and Ship Agents/Exempt Masters are advised vide this notice to contact/keep in touch with the Marine Controller on Duty at the earliest regarding channel/tug availability for their vessels on September 18, 2009.

For further information contact: [Geelong@iss-shipping.com.au](mailto:Geelong@iss-shipping.com.au)



**Newsletter:**  
[newsletter@  
iss-shipping.com.au](mailto:newsletter@iss-shipping.com.au)

**ISS Australia:**  
[australia@  
iss-shipping.com.au](mailto:australia@iss-shipping.com.au)

**ISS-McKay  
New Zealand:**  
[craig.harris@  
iss-mckay.co.nz](mailto:craig.harris@iss-mckay.co.nz)

**ISS Papua New Guinea:**  
[port.moresby@iss-shipping.  
com.pg](mailto:port.moresby@iss-shipping.com.pg)

**Liner Operations:**  
[phillip.abraham@  
iss-shipping.com.au](mailto:phillip.abraham@iss-shipping.com.au)

**Website:**  
[www.iss-shipping.com](http://www.iss-shipping.com)



### **PORT NEWS**

## **Move to solve Newcastle coal ship queues**

15 September 2009

Newcastle coal ships will be forced to wait in international waters until 48 hours before their loading date under the State Government's controversial "virtual queue" plan. Ships that anchor in Australian waters while waiting to load at Newcastle can be demoted in the queue while those that refuse to follow "lawful directions" may be prosecuted. The Government wants the system operating by December 30 and draft rules have been circulated for comment by Newcastle Port Corporation. The Opposition derided the plan when it was unveiled last December as an "out of sight, out of mind" approach and coal shippers said yesterday that nothing had changed.

<http://www.theherald.com.au/news/local/news/general/move-to-solve-newcastle-coal-ship-queues/1623274.aspx?src=rss>

## **Newcastle 'ideally suited' to LNG export plant**

17 September 2009

Plans to make Newcastle a liquefied natural gas (LNG) hub are gaining momentum in the wake of approval for Western Australia's \$43 billion Gorgon Gas deal. Eastern Star Gas is behind plans for an LNG export plant at the Port of Newcastle in the New South Wales Hunter Valley. The company is currently exploring coal seam gas in the Gunnedah Basin and says a recent feasibility study shows Newcastle is ideally suited to an LNG plant. State Ports Minister Joe Tripodi says he and Federal Government officials are closely examining the prospects for such a facility. "The Government is fully committed to making sure that we give a full and thorough investigation into the prospect of this investment," he said.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/17/2688816.htm>

## **New pilot cutter boat for Port of Newcastle**

16 September 2009

A new pilot boat is to be built for the Port of Newcastle at a cost of \$2.5 million, Ports and Waterways Minister Joe Tripodi announced today. The 16-metre long vessel will be built by the Port Macquarie based company Birdon which has been chosen as the successful tenderer for the project. "Construction of the aluminium cutter will start at the company's Hastings River shipyard in the near future with commissioning scheduled for late 2010," Mr Tripodi said. "The decision to commission a new pilot boat follows a review by Newcastle Port Corporation of its Vessel Strategic Plan.

<http://www.powerboat-world.com/New-pilot-cutter-boat-for-Port-of-Newcastle/61360/arc>



### **INDUSTRY NEWS**

## **BHP says Chinese recovery on the way**

16 September 2009

Mining giant BHP Billiton says improving economic conditions in China will help drive demand for commodities including coal and iron ore. The company said today it would engage in benchmark iron ore pricing talks with Asian steel mills next month. It said the economic upswing in China was well advanced. "Developed nation restock has started, and it will be 2010 before true demand emerges," the company said. The recovery helped support a 66 per cent surge in metals prices this year. BHP said global steel demand would double over the next 15 years.

<http://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/business/a/-/national/6041313/bhp-says-chinese-recovery-on-the-way/>

## **Coal exports at record levels**

15 September 2009

Even after being battered by the economic downturn, our mining industry has still managed to break export records for the 2008-9 financial year. According to the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE), the prices of our resources, or the energy export price index, increased by 68 per cent because of our strong thermal (electricity) and metallurgical (metal making) coals. Although the report is not broken down to localities, the "vast majority" of Australia's metal making coal is sourced from the northern Bowen Basin, so the figures apply specifically to our region. Earnings for metal making coal jumped \$20.7 billion, up 129 per cent.

<http://www.dailymercury.com.au/story/2009/09/15/coal-exports-at-record-levels/>

## **Progress made in coal row: Xstrata**

17 September 2009

Xstrata Coal says it is working quickly to resolve a dispute that is now threatening a new coal loading agreement in Newcastle. BHP Billiton was originally blamed for the delayed implementation of the system after it refused to sign-off on the deal. It prompted the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission to scrap the system's interim approval. But blame for the delay has now shifted to Xstrata and Centennial Coal, after Centennial lost a court case and was forced to give its rival some of its export capacity.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/17/2688807.htm?section=business>



### **INDUSTRY NEWS**

## **Lincoln eyes Chinese partners**

09 September 2009

Lincoln Minerals is in “preliminary” discussions with three potential Chinese joint venture partners for its Gum Flat project, just outside Port Lincoln. The company informed shareholders of the development as part of its update on iron ore projects in SA and Indonesia. Interest in Lincoln Minerals projects has picked up in recent months with talks with one of the partners now ongoing for six months, managing director Dr John Parker said. The explorer has a 55.2 million tonne inferred iron ore resource at its Gum Flat project, and is targeting a total of 125 to 200 million tonnes of ore.

<http://www.news.com.au/adelaidenow/story/0,22606,26048875-5016955,00.html>

## **BC Iron starts trial mining at Nullagine project**

17 September 2009

Emerging Pilbara miner BC Iron has started trial mining at its Nullagine project. The company said the 120,000-tonne test pit marks another key step towards commercial mining at the site in 2010 under BC Iron’s joint venture with Fortescue Metals Group. Late last month the company finalised its Pilbara joint-venture agreement with Fortescue ahead of schedule in a move to fast track its mine. BC Iron in July announced Fortescue had given its in-principle endorsement to the Nullagine project, which is located near Fortescue’s Chichester operations, following an agreement reached in June. Under the deal, Fortescue can acquire a 50 per cent interest in the project by providing BC Iron with rail haulage, port handling and ship loading facilities.

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/business/story/0,28124,26086535-5005200,00.html>

## **Australian iron ore growth clogging port system**

17 September 2009

The world’s single largest iron ore deposit, Australia’s 500,000-square-km Pilbara district, is undergoing an unprecedented rate of mine development by BHP Billiton, Fortescue Metals and other companies, taxing limited export berthing space. Plans to triple berthing capacity at the Port Hedland inner harbour iron ore export terminal, to 440 million tonnes annually within four years to accommodate growing freighter traffic will be followed by new outer harbour berths.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/mergersNews/idINSYD37330820090917>