

PROJECT UPDATE

August 09 issue 6



Community Consultation Program for Port and Rail Feasibility Studies

Oakajee Port and Rail (OPR) and the State Government have signed a milestone State Development Agreement (SDA) which gives OPR the exclusive rights for the development of the Oakajee port and the northern rail infrastructure.

The project will deliver substantial benefits to Western Australia, in particular the mid-west region and local communities.

The signing of the SDA in March 2009 has triggered expenditure for detailed planning and studies as part of the Bankable Feasibility Study targeted for completion in March 2010.

OPR is targeting construction to start late 2010 – 2011 with a target start of commercial operations late 2013 – 2014.

Preliminary studies indicate a peak of around 2,000 jobs across port and rail during construction and up to 400 jobs once operational, with flow-on effects to other industries.



Environmental Studies

OPR is continuing a number of environmental studies that commenced in 2006 to describe the existing environment and to identify any significant environmental factors that are likely to be impacted by the project.

These studies include flora and fauna surveys, noise, surface and ground water, dust and visual amenity assessments.

At the conclusion of the studies, OPR will lodge an Environmental Impact Assessment report to the Environmental Protection Authority outlining the environmental management strategies the company will adopt.

Social Impact Assessment

OPR is conducting a Social Impact Assessment study to understand community values and the sentiments of local stakeholders about the Oakajee project.

The study will seek views about: recreation, local employment, environment, training, Indigenous benefits, local transport, public infrastructure, economic development, social benefits, housing, local services and population impacts.

When the consultation process is completed, OPR will present the findings and outline its management plans at meetings with local shires and stakeholders.

The Rail Feasibility Corridor

OPR is undertaking the planning and consultation for an open access rail network to link iron ore producers to the new port and provide an integrated, efficient port and rail solution for miners in the region.

OPR has identified a 4km-wide 550km feasibility corridor within which the railway route is likely to be situated. It passes through a number of shires, freehold land parcels and pastoral leases.

An operational rail corridor between 80 to 100m wide is likely to be located within the 4km-wide 550km rail feasibility corridor and its location will consider environmental and social factors including: environmentally sensitive areas; rare and endangered flora and fauna; hills and rivers; and towns, communities, houses and homesteads.

OPR has established a two-phase consultation timetable to discuss land access for the rail project and is actively working with landholders and the State Government to ensure the project progresses with their support.

Phase one, from July 2009 to December 2010 requires land access to complete feasibility studies. In doing so, OPR will hold face-to-face meetings with all landholders and will consult with them in a fair and equitable manner.

The feasibility studies include flora and fauna surveys, Aboriginal heritage surveys, noise and visual studies, drilling and soil sampling.



Jobs. Growth. Prosperity.

Further Information

Visit OPR at:
Mullewa Agricultural Show
Saturday 29 August
Chapman Valley Agricultural Show
Saturday 5 September
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