



## Mid-West Community News

### Keynote speech

An audience of 300 drawn from government and business attended a Committee for Economic Development of Australia breakfast in Perth this month to hear OPR's Chief Executive Chris Eves deliver an address titled *Delivering Oakajee to the World*.

Mr Eves spoke about the tasks, processes and planning, timetable, importance of the project for mid-west miners to deliver their product to the world, and the impact the port and rail project will have on the mid-west region and the State.

Mr Eves was joined by Deidre Willmott, Cabinet Secretary and Chief of Staff to the Premier and the Geraldton Iron Ore Alliance's Chief Executive, Rob Jefferies for a panel discussion.

Mr Jefferies said the Oakajee project enjoys strong support from the region's industry and community, and GIOA members are ready to enthusiastically and cooperatively play their part.

Download Mr Eves' speech at: [www.opandr.com/images/opandr-rahgh.pdf](http://www.opandr.com/images/opandr-rahgh.pdf)



OPR's Environment and Land Access Manager Peter Spalding explains the project to Mr Rudd. Photo courtesy Geraldton Guardian

### Oakajee briefing

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd together with Premier Colin Barnett flew to Geraldton last week to receive a first hand briefing about the Oakajee port and rail project.

Mr Rudd said *"The Pilbara, the north-west shelf and now Oakajee - these will become names in the economic history of Australia and are part of Australia's economic future."*

*"This project is going to be good."*

*"The whole nation should pause for a moment and reflect where this great project will take Western Australia and Australia in the decades that lie ahead," he added.*

### Drilling complete

Oakajee Port and Rail's offshore drilling program located off the Oakajee coast has been completed.

OPR's Engineering Manager – Port, Bill Carlton, said the nine-week drilling program using a drill rig mounted on a jack-up barge, was very successful.

Mr Carlton said the drilling program provided important information about the quality of seabed materials in the areas to be dredged.

### OPR supports society



Australia-Japan Society of Geraldton President Terry O'Toole receives sponsorship support from Oakajee Port and Rail's Kim Pervan (centre) and Carleen Kelly.

The partnership recognises the structure of OPR which is 50 per cent owned by Japanese company Mitsubishi Development Pty Ltd.

The contribution will help fund the Society's quiz night with proceeds going towards the Society's cultural projects.

Mr O'Toole said the Society is very grateful for the support of OPR and all the local businesses that support its work.



The jack-up barge named Sirius and drilling rig is now moored in Champion Bay.



Chris Eves, Rob Jefferies and Deidre Willmott at the CEDA breakfast.



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