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GNFL signs up OPR

The Great Northern Football League (GNFL) today welcomed Oakajee Port and Rail's (OPR) decision to continue as a major sponsor of the League and the 2009 Country Week Championships.

The partnership, which was originally facilitated by Fremantle Football Club as part of its ongoing support to football in the mid-west, builds on OPR's recent signing as a Sponsor with the Fremantle Football Club.

OPR's confirmation of both football partnerships were triggered when Oakajee Port and Rail and the State Government signed the *State Development Agreement - Oakajee Port and Rail Project* for the delivery of an integrated open access, bulk commodity port and rail supply chain to transport iron ore from Western Australia's mid-west to customers in the Asia Pacific region.

The Oakajee deepwater port and associated rail network, to be developed exclusively by OPR in partnership with the State Government, will service the mid-west's growing iron ore industry and drive the future growth of the mid-west.

At the GNFL season launch on Thursday night in Geraldton, Mr Paul Kosovich, League President said "The GNFL welcomes OPR's continuation as a major sponsor of the League and their commitment in the sponsorship is indicative of OPR's desire to become part of the mid-west community".

OPR Manager Community and Public Relations, Kim Pervan, said today that OPR's commitment to the mid-west remains solid.

"OPR will now invest in excess of \$100 million over the next 12 months in further studies and detailed planning as part of the project's Bankable Feasibility Study" said Ms Pervan.

"We will increase our dialogue with the broader mid-west community in the second half of the year and strengthen our strategic partnerships in football, indigenous art and with local government."

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