

Who's Who

Free

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Economic Outlook	Government and Not For Profit	Construction, Manufacturing, and Engineering	Indigenous Business	Oil, Gas and Mining	Retail Business	Service Industries
pages 1-15	pages 16-26	pages 27-41	pages 42-43	pages 44-51	pages 52-64	pages 65-96



BUSY TIME: Port Hedland has handled \$40 billion worth of commodities, while Dampier Port continues to grow on the back of increasing demand from the likes of Rio Tinto.

Record breaking year for port

A RECORD \$40 billion worth of commodities were handled by Port Hedland in the last year.

The world's largest bulk export port broke its own benchmarks as Pilbara miners saw a surge in demand from China.

Hedland's rapidly expanding harbour had a throughput of 199 million tonnes in 2010-2011. That was up 20 million tonnes on the previous year's tally.

The financial year prior (2009-2010) had also been a record year for iron ore exports through Hedland.

PHPA acting chief executive officer Lindsay Copeman welcomed the results, and indicated that further significant growth was on the horizon.

"The port is continuing its sustained growth path," said Lindsay.

"The full development of the inner harbour in the coming

years could well see trade levels exceed 400 million tonnes a year.

"In the near term we are projecting total trade to exceed 300 million tonnes for the following year 2011/12.

"We will continue to facilitate the needs of all our port users in an efficient and sustainable way, contributing, in the process, to the national economy and to the development of the town of Port Hedland and the Pilbara region overall."

Other records set included the largest iron ore shipment to leave Port Hedland, with 247,858 tonnes on the vessel Cape Infinity.

That toppled a long standing record of 234,544 tonnes, held by the Hyundai Giant for more than 20 years.

That previous record was in fact broken twice in the last 12 months.

The largest cargo shipped on a single tide was a total of 914,881 tonnes aboard five ships.

"The recent shipping figures are a testimony to the significant growth the port is experiencing and which is forecast to continue in Port Hedland," said Lindsay.

"The Port Hedland Port Authority will further progress its work with all proponents and port users, including major and junior miners, to enable future growth and greater throughput.

"With current and forecast development, the authority is committed to forging new avenues for trade in the Pilbara for the benefit of the state and national economies as it surges towards achieving throughput of over 400 million tonnes per annum in the coming years."

Lindsay added the port was also pleased with the progress of the Utah Berth, which has recorded a total throughput of 6.2 million tonnes since commissioning in September 2010.

The largest shipment to leave the berth was set earlier this month, with the MV Duhallow shipping a combined total of 114,546 tonnes of manganese and chromite.

In August, Texas-based engineering and construction group Fluor Corporation announced its joint venture with Sinclair Knight Merz had won additional contracts with BHP Billiton for the mining giant's 100 million tonne expansion of its Pilbara operations.

The newly awarded work will focus on expansion of the Port Hedland inner harbour.

Fluor booked approximately \$US2.7 billion for the project in its second quarter results.

Fluor is the majority stakeholder in the joint venture, known as FAST, which has provided engineering, procurement, construction management and commissioning services for BHP Billiton's iron ore projects since 2001.



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The new deal followed the announcement in May that the joint venture had won new contracts for the expansion of BHP's Jumblebar iron ore mine.

Meanwhile, further south, Dampier Port Authority is also seeing resounding results. That port shipped \$21.7 billion of goods and materials over the last year

This included some \$10.5 billion of iron ore for export, \$7.4 billion of liquid natural gas (LNG), \$1.3 billion of natural gas condensate and \$1.4 billion of liquid petroleum gas (LPG).

Other major products handled by the port included \$515 million of anhydrous ammonia and \$100

million of salt harvested from the salt plains close to the port, as well as \$221.5 million of general cargo.

Over the last five years, trade through the port has grown at an average rate of 10 per cent per annum.

Projections show that growth is likely to continue as oil and gas production from the new offshore fields ramps up to full scale production, and iron ore production continues to expand.

The Gorgon and Pluto projects are under development while Rio Tinto plans to increase output of iron ore from 220 million tonnes to a forecast 283 million tonnes by 2013.