



# ASX and Media Release

## WPG welcomes call for EOIs for development of Port Bonython

**Western Plains Resources Ltd (ASX:WPG) has noted the advertisements that appear in today's national press calling for Expressions of Interest for the development of a common user bulk commodities export facility at Port Bonython. WPG welcomes the initiative taken by the government and supports the development of this facility.**

Advertisements appear in today's press that call for Expressions of Interest (**EOI**) for the development of a bulk commodities export facility at Port Bonython in the upper part of South Australia's Spencer Gulf. The advertisements have been placed by the Office of Major Projects and Infrastructure of South Australia's Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure. Further details of the EOI process can be found at [http://www.realtysolutions.com.au/registration\\_portbonython.html](http://www.realtysolutions.com.au/registration_portbonython.html).

The project consists of a harbour capable of loading Cape sized vessels to export bulk commodities, primarily iron ore, from South Australian mines, together with a link to the standard gauge rail network.

The mining industry has identified Port Bonython as the preferred location to export bulk ores from South Australia.

Port Bonython is the only location near Gawler Craton capable of berthing Cape sized vessels that is near interstate rail lines.

Several experienced port operators are interested in developing the facility.

The land and seabed in the area is under control of Minister for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure.

Subject to the grant of all necessary approvals, WPG expects to be in a position to be able to commence DSO exports in 2009 at the rate of 3 mtpa, growing to 4.5 mtpa one year later, for a period of 10 years.

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WPG's export tonnage could be much higher than this, if the Company's magnetite deposits at Hawks Nest are brought into production.

The Port Bonython Bulk Users Group Inc, of which WPG is a founding member, believes that total iron ore exports could grow to more than 15 mtpa by 2015.

In addition to iron ore exports, there are other industries planned for the Port Bonython peninsular. These include oil refineries, a desalination plant, an expansion of the farmed kingfish industry, and possibly an import/export facility for the expansion of the Olympic Dam project.

The proposed bulk export facility at Port Bonython is of great importance to WPG. WPG will be playing an active role in the development process, with a view to influencing the agenda. WPG has a virtually immediate requirement for this facility, and the Company's needs will be best met if the scale, scope, cost and development timetable are tied to the industry's requirements.

WPG's executives, representing the Port Bonython Bulk Users Group Inc, attended a community information day at Whyalla on 4 May. WPG will continue to engage with the local community, and believes that the facility can be built in a way which is compatible with the best interests of all relevant stakeholders.

***Further Information***

*For further information please contact WPG's Executive Chairman Bob Duffin, on (02) 9251 1044 or 0412 234 684, or Heath Roberts, Executive Director and Company Secretary on (02) 9247 7359 or 0419 473 925.*