



ASX and Media Release

SA Government announces details for Port Bonython iron ore export facility

Western Plains Resources is pleased to advise that the SA Government has released details on the development of an iron ore export facility at Port Bonython.

The Government has awarded preferred bidder status to the Spencer Gulf PortLink Consortium. Key members of the Consortium include Flinders Ports, Leighton Contractors, ARTC, BIS and Macquarie Capital.

The new iron ore port is expected to be operational in 2011. The Company is actively working on an innovative strategy to allow it to commence exports from another port before then as an interim measure.

A total of 10 expressions of interest were lodged for this project, including one from Spencer Ports Group, a consortium assembled by Western Plains.

Flinders Ports operates all seven public ports in South Australia. Western Plains is surprised the Government did not see the benefit in introducing competition into the South Australian ports sector, but recognises that Flinders Ports is an experienced, capable and competent port operator. Western Plains looks forward to working with Flinders Ports so that this new facility is constructed quickly, and to a scope that makes it cost competitive with other bulk commodity export ports.

Western Plains will be a cornerstone customer of this port. This decision, together with the Department of Defence's decision in relation to the Peculiar Knob mine and infrastructure development, which the Company announced on 16 October, are very important developments in the Company's transition from explorer to producer.

Western Plains heavily lobbied the State Government to commit to the development of this new port. It is rewarding that the Government has now responded. It seems unlikely that commitment to this development would have been taken without the Company's initiatives.

For further information please contact WPG's Executive Chairman Bob Duffin, on (02) 9247 3232 or 0412 234 684, or Heath Roberts, Executive Director and Company Secretary on (02) 9247 7359 or 0419 473 925.

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