

News Release Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis

Minister for Finance
Minister for State Development
Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy
Minister for Small Business

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Iron Road major development a step closer

South Australia's next major mining development – forecast to create more than 700 direct jobs during its operating life – is a step closer after reaching a key milestone today.

Mineral Resources and Energy Tom Koutsantonis Minister said Iron Road Limited has now been advised it can prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the infrastructure required to support the (US) \$4.5 billion magnetite mine and export project on Eyre Peninsula.

“The Iron Road project is hugely significant to South Australia and the State Government is very pleased to today release the EIS guidelines for the project's infrastructure components,” Mr Koutsantonis said.

The Environmental Impact Statement will cover:

- A 148 kilometre rail project, with the potential to be linked to the national rail network.
- A deep sea port and export facility at Cape Hardy, 7 km south of Port Neill.
- A village to house mine operation staff adjacent to the township of Wudinna.
- A 1.3 km jetty and wharf structure with a covered conveyer and ship loader capable of loading Cape-size vessels (up to 220,000 tonne).
- An infrastructure corridor, including a rail line, power transmission line, water pipeline and a bore field.

During construction, the project is expected to involve a peak workforce of up to 1950 and an ongoing workforce of more than 700 when commercial production of the mine commences in 2018.

“The size, scope and economic benefit of this project for our State is enormous,” Mr Koutsantonis said.

“That's why the State Government has been working with Iron Road Limited to provide expert advice on the requirements of the various rigorous approval stages both State and Commonwealth Governments require for a project of this size.”

The integrated iron export operation on Eyre Peninsula aims to export 21.5 million tonnes per annum of high grade iron concentrate (magnetite) with low impurities, generating many billions of dollars in revenues over the project's life.

Managing Director of Iron Road Limited Andrew Stocks said the company is delighted to receive the guidelines for the EIS relating to the infrastructure components of the Central Eyre Iron Project.

“The proposed infrastructure is expected to deliver tangible benefits to the region and we look forward to continuing our work with government and our wider stakeholder groups,” Mr Stocks said.

In August 2013 the State Government granted the Iron Road project infrastructure major development status and in February this year Iron Road Limited completed a definitive feasibility study.

Since then, it has lodged referral documents for both the infrastructure and mine site to the Department of the Environment under the Commonwealth’s Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.