

MEDIA RELEASE

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JAMES POINT PORT ANNOUNCES SCHEDULE FOR PORT DEVELOPMENT

James Point Pty Ltd (JPPL) has formally advised Government of its intention to commence construction of its Bulk and General Facility on 2nd January 2013.

Both the Bulk and General Facility, together with a subsequent International Container Facility, are being developed in accordance with an Operating Agreement with the State Government, and will be fully-funded by the private sector.

The James Point Port will be located in the heart of the Kwinana Industrial Area between the BP refinery and the Kwinana Power Station and will abut existing industrial land on a 3.5km stretch of coast, within an overall water area of about 240ha.

JPPL was recently granted development approval for dredging and reclamation work required for its Bulk and General Facility.

“Environmental approval for the Bulk and General Facility was obtained in 2004,” said Dr Chris Whitaker, the Chairman of JPPL. “In the meantime, it took nine years for the necessary amendment to be made to the Metropolitan Region Scheme. This was followed by a very protracted process to obtain development approval from the WA Planning Commission, and this necessitated an appeal to the State Administrative Tribunal.

“The Company is delighted to have at last reached this stage, especially given the increasing pressure from prospective users for additional facilities to be provided as a matter of great urgency,” he said.

“James Point has been continually pressured by prospective users to nominate a start-up date, but we have been unable to do so until the necessary environmental and planning approvals were in place.

“Now that this has been achieved, the Company has moved immediately (in accordance with the provisions of its Operating Agreement) to formally advise Government of its intention to commence construction on 2nd January 2013.

“This formal Notice means that the Government must now excise the Port Area and lease it to JPPL. The Company expects that this formal process will be finalised promptly.

“Construction will take up to eighteen months, meaning that the facility is planned to be operational in mid 2014,” Dr Whitaker said.

Before construction commences, the Company will be progressing a number of detailed studies which are required to satisfy the conditions attached to the approvals, together with technical studies for the final design. It is estimated that \$15 million will be spent on these studies.

“The Company has recently established a Stakeholder Reference Group. Its role is to advise the Minister for the Environment and the Company on matters relating to the environmental approval,” Dr Whitaker said.

“The Group has already held its first meeting, and the eminent scientist Dr Des Lord has been appointed as the independent Chair.”

Meanwhile, the Company is also advancing its work on an International Container Facility. In December 2010 the Environmental Protection Authority finalised the Environmental Scoping Document for the project, and the detailed scoping of studies is now under way.

“It is the Company’s view that additional container facilities will be required about five or six years from now, and will help alleviate the growing pressure on road and rail infrastructure leading to and from the Inner Harbour. James Point is embarked on a timeline to enable additional facilities to be developed within this timeframe,” said Dr Whitaker.

“James Point’s facilities for both bulk and container port infrastructure will provide much-needed additional capacity, and through competition with the Fremantle Port Authority’s facilities will provide real choice for importers and exporters.

That can only be good news for the State’s prospering economy,” Dr Whitaker concluded.

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