



## Growing trade in the Pilbara

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At a time when other industries are scaling back due to COVID-19, the ports of the Pilbara have reached new heights, setting a new world record for throughput by a bulk export port authority. In the 2020/21 financial year, Pilbara Ports Authority (PPA) recorded a total annual throughput of 724.7 million tonnes.

Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic has added a layer of complexity to port operations, but PPA remains focused on maintaining safe, round-the-clock operations, while keeping COVID-19 out of the ports and the communities where we operate. In fact, since the outbreak of the pandemic, there has been no case of community transmission of the virus through PPA's ports.

Iron ore continues to dominate the throughput figures, equating to more than 93% of trade. Other commodities include LNG, salt, copper, magnesium and lithium, and PPA continues to work with its customers to facilitate trade for future projects.

Across PPA we celebrated many achievements this year, one of the highlights being a renewed focus on direct freight shipping into the Pilbara. We celebrated the return of direct freight shipping to the Port of Dampier, with ANL and Seaswift continuing to provide regular services. Swire and ANL have introduced regular services into the Port of Port Hedland. The services are expected to reduce costs for industry and drive new investment opportunities, bringing new business and jobs to the Pilbara.

Providing fit-for-purpose infrastructure is an ongoing focus across PPA's ports. The Lumsden Point General Cargo Facility at the Port of Port Hedland welcomed its

first vessel in October 2021. While the ultimate development of the facility is yet to be realised, a temporary Materials Off-loading Facility is now operational and facilitating the unloading of project cargo. The temporary facility has been designed so that in the future, it can be integrated into the Lumsden Point General Cargo Facility as part of Pilbara Ports Authority's long-term plan to support the growth and diversification of general cargo trade and provide broader economic benefits to the Pilbara region. There are opportunities for industry to progress warehousing facilities, chemical or fuel storage, mineral concentrate storage, quarantine wash bays, container packing and unpacking facilities, laydown and trucking and transport hubs.

Another project highlight at the Port of Port Hedland during 2021 was the completion of a \$12.6 million upgrade to the revetment under the Port Hedland general cargo Berth 3, in the inner harbour. A \$29.3 million contract was recently awarded to Austral Construction Pty Ltd to refurbish the existing revetment in the Nelson Point Tug Haven and further works are planned to refurbish the tug haven's outer sheet wall.

Opportunities being considered at the Port of Dampier include an extension to the Dampier Cargo Wharf (DCW) and Landside Redevelopment Project. As part of this project, PPA is investigating the development of a new multi-product land backed wharf south of the DCW, which would facilitate bulk export capacity for a proposed urea project on the Burrup Peninsula.

The Port of Ashburton is fully operational and receives several LNG tankers each week. The proposed infrastructure project at the port is the Ashburton Eastern

Jetty Deep Water Berth to provide dry bulk cargo capacity and increased general cargo and bulk liquid capacity. PPA is also working with a customer to develop infrastructure at the port for a trans-shipping iron ore project. Careful attention is being given to the location and layout of the trans-shipping facilities to ensure there is no compromise to existing and future port users.

On 1 July 2021, PPA welcomed the transfer of the Port of Varanus Island from the Department of Transport management to the PPA portfolio. The transfer embedded the process which will be used to facilitate the transfer of a further four ports to PPA in coming years.

The ports of the Pilbara are the engine room of the Australian economy, which is an opportunity and responsibility we take seriously. Our overall message for our existing and new customers is that the ports of the Pilbara are well-positioned to meet their plans. PPA is planning for where the market is going, and we will continue to cater to the ever-increasing demand for trade out of the Pilbara. ▲