

Information Sheet



DUST MANAGEMENT

Esperance Ports Sea and Land (EPSL) and Cliffs Asia Pacific Iron Ore (Cliffs) are committed to ensuring that the strong focus on dust management at Esperance Port continues if the proposal to increase exports of iron ore to 11.5 Million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) is approved.

What iron ore dust control measures are in place at Esperance Port?

The iron ore dust control measures employed at the Esperance Port are recognised as being leading practice for dust management by the WA Department of Environment and Conservation.

A range of dust controls are employed to minimise the potential for iron ore dust, including:

- moisture control of the iron ore product prior to being loaded onto trains at the mine;
- dust control on arrival at the Esperance Port, where open train wagons pass through a fine water spray before entering the rotary car dumper;
- enclosed conveyors;
- enclosed storage sheds (Figure 1); and
- an adjustable shiploader chute equipped with a water shroud to minimise dust during shiploading (Figure 2).



Figure 1: A loader working in one of the four enclosed iron ore sheds located at the Port

What is the current contribution of iron ore dust to existing dust levels in Esperance?

In 2009, specialist air quality consultants, Environ Pty Ltd, were engaged to review EPSL's environmental dust monitoring data to determine the percentage contribution

of iron to dust loads as an indicator of the potential contribution of iron ore to overall dust. Environ Pty Ltd concluded that the current contribution of iron ore to existing dust levels is low, with the average iron content on all total suspended particulate filters being approximately 2%. This percentage contribution is an over-estimate since road materials and other products handled at the Esperance Port contain iron. Cliffs is investigating the actual contribution of its iron ore to overall dust in Esperance.



Figure 2: The adjustable chute on the shiploader means that the loading of iron ore can occur almost within the vessel's hold.

What is potential impact of increasing export of Cliffs iron ore from 8.8Mtpa to 11.5Mtpa?

Modelling conducted by specialist air quality consultants Environ Pty Ltd concluded that the proposed expansion to 11.5Mtpa of iron ore through Esperance Port will have a negligible impact on dust levels. At an increased throughput of 11.5Mtpa, Environ Pty Ltd estimated that dust parameters will not exceed EPSL's environmental licence limit or the National Environmental Protection Measure for Dust at any of the receptors outside of the Port boundary.

OVERVIEW

- Iron ore dust controls at the Port are recognised as leading practice.
- The current contribution of iron ore to existing dust levels is very low.
- The proposed increase in export of iron ore to 11.5Mtpa through the Port of Esperance is likely to have a negligible impact on the dust concentrations.