



Port town ideal for iron producers

THE newly established association of iron ore producers and explorers, the Yilgarn Iron Producers Association, visited Esperance last week to meet stakeholder groups.

During the visit YIPA chairman Gregory Bromley and secretary David Utting held discussions with the Esperance Ports Sea and Land and took some time out to look at some of the infrastructure in town.

While the group was in town the Esperance Chamber of Commerce and Industry held a meeting between the representatives of YIPA, the Shire of Esperance and the Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission.

ECCI chief executive Grant Shipp said Yilgarn iron ore was already being exported through the Esperance Port and over time this would grow with the number of mining companies and exploration in the Yilgarn region.

“Esperance is well placed with the majority of infrastructure already in place to maximise this opportunity,” he said.

The Yilgarn is already an established iron producing region with eight million tonnes per annum of direct shipping ore exported and a potential aggregate iron endowment of more than 10 billion tonnes of magnetite and 1bn tonnes of DSO haematite ores.

YIPA chairman Gregory Bromley said the cooperative development of rail and other infrastructure could turn the central Yilgarn into Australia’s next big iron ore powerhouse.

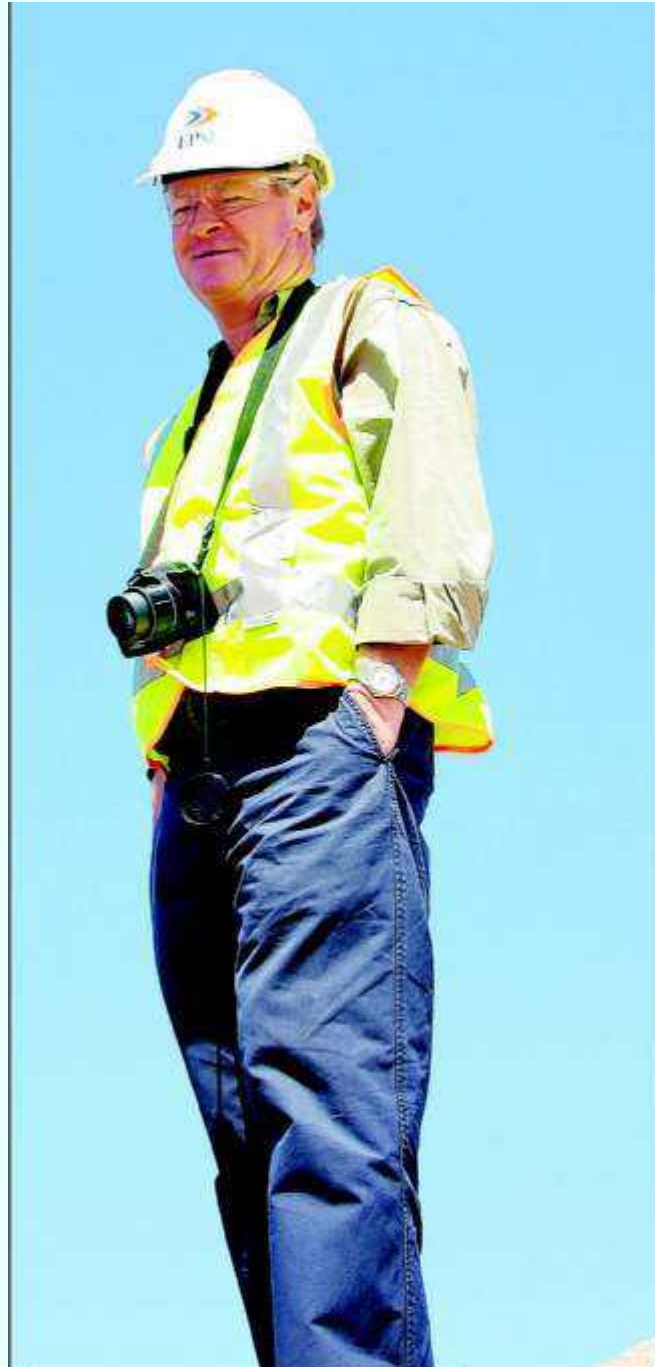
“This would have a significant economic benefit to the Yilgarn-Goldfields-Esperance area,” he said.

Mr Shipp agreed the Yilgarn region had enormous potential and said it was great to see the formation of YIPA. “It will allow for a coordinated assessment of the infrastructure required,” he said.

“There is about 150km of rail required; all other infrastructure is more or less in place for shipment out of Esperance.”

Mr Ship said it would be some time before Esperance saw the benefits, but if the forward estimates were correct, there would be significant benefits to the town when the ore began to be shipped through the Esperance Port, including employment and further infrastructure development.

NEYSHA REEVES



Surveying the scene: YIPA Chairperson, Gregory Bromley took some time out to look over Esperance infrastructure at the Port during a recent visit to the town.

Photo: NEYSHA REEVES