Perth Now

Yilgarn miners unite to form alliance

- Rebecca Lawson, Business Reporter
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A map of the iron ore mines in the Yilgarn region. Picture: Supplied

Source: Supplied

THE Yilgarn region of WA is the latest mining area to set up a coalition of miners and explorers, which will co-operate on the development of rail and infrastructure.

The Yilgarn Iron Producers' Association (YIPA) had its inaugural meeting yesterday, with eleven miners and explorers joining the association, chaired by Gregory Bromley who is also managing director for Mindax Ltd.

YIPA has resolved to promote community, indigenous and environmental achievement in the region, promote the development of infrastructure and promote the exploration and mining of iron ore.

Members of the new association are Cashmere Iron, Cliffs Natural Resources, Fairstar Resources, Golden West Resources, Hawthorn Resources, Legacy Iron Ore, Macarthur Minerals, Mindax, Mineral Resources and Transit Holdings.

The Yilgarn region, north-west of Kalgoorlie, already has an established iron mine that produces 8 million tonnes of direct shipping ore (DSO) iron each year, and the region has more than 10 billion tonnes (Bt) of magnetite iron and 1Bt of DSO iron.

Mr Bromley said the co-operative development of rail and other infrastructure could turn the central Yilgarn into Australia's next big iron ore powerhouse.

"Having a concentration of prospective mines in such a small area with 11 billion tonnes plus of ore earmarks the province as one of great potential," he said.

http://www.perthnow.com.au/business/yilgarn-miners-unite-to-form-alliance/story-e... 8/10/2010

"For example about half a dozen new mines could be serviced by about 160 km of new track plus spurs and we would be working towards upgrading the existing link to Esperance Port and co-operating in the planning issues at the Port.

"YIPA would provide a focus and a forum for co-operation and planning in these areas of common interest."

Mr Bromley added the State Government was supportive of the formation of YIPA and was keen to assist.

"We have already met senior State officials and expect a solid contribution to WA's future by YIPA Inc."

Other regions where miners and explorers have formed alliances are the Geraldton Iron Ore Alliance, which serves the Mid West area, and the North West Iron Ore Alliance which serves companies in the Pilbara.

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