

Media Release

17 October, 2007

Australian Marine Complex delivers load-out wharf for FMG

The modular construction of a 250m, 3000 tonne iron ore load-out wharf for Fortescue Metals Group (FMG) has been completed at the Australian Marine Complex's (AMC) Common User Facility.

FMG's founder Andrew Forrest, who visited the AMC Common User Facility on Friday 12 October, 2007 to witness the wharf being loaded onto the heavy lift ship *Happy Buccaneer*, said the Common User Facility was pivotal in enabling the project to be delivered.

Located at Henderson, the AMC Common User Facility was chosen for the build location as it provided the required scale and infrastructure to efficiently complete the project which was managed by McConnell Dowel and built by Thiess.

The AMC's 40ha fabrication and assembly area combined with the proximity to a deep water heavy loadout wharf enables companies such as FMG to achieve highly productive and cost effective build strategies.

"The AMC Common User Facility is an open access facility like FMG's. We are able to make our project happen because the government sponsored this open access industrial marine facility. It means that projects like Fortescue can get off the ground. We would not have had the same chance if it was owned by our competitors", said Mr Forrest.

The completion of the wharf – one of the first major piece of infrastructure for FMG's Anderson Point project, to consist of rail truck unloading, ore blending and, ship loading facilities - represents a major milestone in the progress of FMG's iron ore export strategy.

Built in large pre-assembled units, the wharf and fully commissioned conveyor system was assembled on the lay-down area as a 250m structure. The wharf was then separated into five 600 tonne modules for sea transport to Port Hedland.

The Common User Facility is a \$180 million joint State and Federal Government funded initiative. Owned and operated by the State Government, the Common User Facility has generated in excess of \$160 million in business to the Western Australian economy and created over 1680 jobs from over 160 contracts undertaken since opening in July 2003.

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