1. New regional ports authorities commence operations

**The new ports authorities**

Following the proclamation of the *Ports Legislation Amendment Act 2014*, the new regionally based Kimberley Ports Authority, Pilbara Ports Authority and Mid West Ports Authority commenced operations on 1 July 2014, replacing the former port authorities of Broome, Port Hedland, Dampier and Geraldton.

The Southern Ports Authority, which will replace the existing port authorities of Bunbury, Albany and Esperance, is expected to become operational in the near future.

Its establishment has been delayed because of the complexities posed by the differences in operating models across the ports of Bunbury, Albany and Esperance. This short delay will ensure a smoother transition and provide further confidence to customers, board members and staff.

2. Progress of the ports reform legislation

**Tranche 1**

The *Ports Legislation Amendment Act 2014*, which provides for the amalgamation of the former seven regional port authorities into the four new ports authorities, was passed by Parliament on 8 May 2014 and proclaimed in May and June.

**Tranche 2**

On 10 March 2014, Cabinet approval was given for the drafting of legislative changes to effect the second phase of ports amalgamations, and drafting has commenced.

The intention of this tranche of the reform legislation is to bring ports and port facilities currently regulated by the *Shipping and Pilotage Act 1967*, together with a number of new ports, under the *Port Authorities Act 1999* and the relevant new regional ports authority.

The 13 ports and port facilities currently regulated under the *Shipping and Pilotage Act 1967* are: Port of Wyndham, Cockatoo Island, Koolan Island, Port of Derby, Port Walcott (Cape Lambert), Port of Cape Preston, Varanus Island, Barrow Island, Airlie Island, Onslow, Thevenard Island, Cape Cuvier and Useless Loop.

3. Report from the Steering Committee

The Steering Committee convened in April and July 2014 to consider the progress of working groups and discuss ongoing issues. It specifically considered reports from the Kimberley Ports Working Group, the Mid West Ports Working Group, the Pilbara Ports Working Group, the Southern Ports Working Group and the Technical Support Working Group.
In summary, the ports working groups reported that:

- The transitions to the new regional ports authorities were undertaken without any significant problems.
- The boards for the Kimberley, Pilbara and Mid West regional ports authorities had been officially appointed by the Minister for Transport.
- Board inductions, organisational structures, and appointments of senior staff would occur in coming months.
- Work on identifying and considering issues related to the second tranche of the reform had commenced.

The Steering Committee also updated its communications strategy, strategic risk register and project schedule in line with its terms of reference for the second tranche of the reform.

4. Contacts for more information

If more information is required, please contact:

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