

Lithium leads trade increase for Bunbury

- Export of lithium-containing spodumene concentrate through Bunbury increased almost 40 per cent in FY17-18 compared to the previous year
- Overall throughput edged 1.3 per cent higher to a total of almost 15 million tonnes
- Alumina continued to be the Port's biggest trade, with export of 10.7 million tonnes
- Two new trades were facilitated following upgrades to Bunbury's Berth 8 multi-user berth.

Throughput at Southern Ports in Bunbury edged higher during FY17-18, up 1.3 per cent on the previous year to a total of almost 15 million tonnes.

Southern Ports interim chief executive Alan Byers said a 39 per cent increase in silica sand export led the overall trade increase, up 106,000 tonnes to 380,000 tonnes. Spodumene — a source of lithium—increased 103,000 tonnes, up 18 per cent to 683,000 tonnes and import of mineral sands increased 50 per cent to 160,000.

Alumina continued to be the Port's biggest trade, with export of 10.7 million tonnes, a drop of 2 per cent or 190,000 on the previous year.

Southern Ports interim chief executive Alan Byers said the growth in trade had been facilitated by upgrades to Bunbury's multiuser facility at Berth 8.

"These major upgrades to Berth 8 will result in reduced shutdown time, the ability to facilitate different types of products, and increased load rates," Mr Byers said.

"Equipment upgrades will reduce loading time by at least 166 hours over the next 12 months, and washdown times by about 222 hours. Modelling for a new in-house scheduling system is in the final stages which is expected to significantly increase berth capacity."

The upgrades helped facilitate two new products during the year: Alcoa exported 145,000 tonnes of bauxite and Worsley Alumina exported 31,5000 tonnes of alumina hydrate via Berth 8.

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BUNBURY				
IMPORTS	2018	2017	Change	% change
COMMODITY				
CAUSTIC SODA	1,362,935	1,353,215	9,720	0.72%
COAL	98,516	97,996	520	0.53%
FERTILIZERS	20,701	29,138	(8,437)	-28.96%
MINERAL SANDS	476,016	316,456	159,560	50.42%
OIL/PETROLEUM	11,905	11,812	93	0.79%
SUNDRY	1,029	1,450	(421)	-29.03%
TIMBER PRODUCTS	7,487	5,886	1,601	27.20%
TOTAL IMPORTS	1,978,589	1,815,953	162,636	8.96%
EXPORTS				
COMMODITY				
ALUMINA	10,744,052	10,933,102	(189,050)	-1.73%
BAUXITE	145,698	0	145,698	
COPPER CONCENTRATE	261,260	263,225	(1,965)	-0.75%
GRAIN	283,353	273,849	9,504	3.47%
MINERAL SANDS	823,245	960,885	(137,640)	-14.32%
OIL/PETROLEUM	14,891	12,789	2,102	16.44%
SILICA SAND	379,475	273,474	106,001	38.76%
SPODUMENE	682,975	579,531	103,444	17.85%
SUNDRY	31,807	29,036	2,771	9.54%
TIMBER PRODUCTS	26,845	26,088	757	2.90%
WOODCHIPS	1,559,147	1,543,783	15,364	1.00%
TOTAL EXPORTS	14,952,748	14,895,762	56,986	0.38%
FUEL OIL (BUNKERS)	0	0	0	
TOTAL TRADE	16,931,337	16,711,715	219,622	1.31%
SHIPPING				
GROSS REGISTERED TONNAGE	13,704,485	13,646,656	57,829	0.42%
NUMBER OF VESSELS				
TRADE VESSELS	453	441	12	2.72%
OTHER VESSELS	7	5	2	40.00%
NUMBER OF VESSELS	460	446	14	3.14%

All Southern Ports				
IMPORTS	2018	2017	Change	% change
COMMODITY				
CAUSTIC SODA	1,362,935	1,353,215	9,720	0.72%
COAL	98,516	97,996	520	0.53%
FERTILISER	262,139	291,093	-28,954	-9.95%
MINERAL SANDS	476,016	316,456	159,560	50.42%
NICKEL	0	9,171	-9,171	-100.00%
OIL/PETROLEUM	390,042	351,201	38,841	11.06%
SULPHUR	0	411,080	-411,080	-100.00%
SUNDRY	11,951	24,117	-12,166	-50.45%
TIMBER PRODUCTS	7,487	5,886	1,601	27.20%
TOTAL IMPORTS	2,609,086	2,860,214	-251,128	-8.78%
EXPORTS				
COMMODITY	2018	2017	Change	% change
ALUMINA	10,744,052	10,933,102	-189,050	-1.73%
BAUXITE	145,698	0	145,698	100.00%
COPPER CONCENTRATE	289,000	268,842	20,158	7.50%
GRAIN	5,560,037	6,147,887	-587,850	-9.56%
IRON ORE	8,206,916	11,247,090	-3,040,174	-27.03%
MINERAL SANDS	823,245	960,885	-137,640	-14.32%
NICKEL	165,350	99,613	65,737	65.99%
OIL/PETROLEUM	14,891	12,789	2,102	16.44%
SILICA SAND	600,335	501,625	98,710	19.68%
SPODUMENE	884,630	634,203	250,427	39.49%
SUNDRY	49,405	89,585	-40,180	-44.85%
TIMBER PRODUCTS	88,630	74,865	13,765	18.39%
WOODCHIPS	3,389,029	3,500,915	-111,886	-3.20%
TOTAL EXPORTS	30,961,218	34,471,402	-3,510,184	-10.18%
FUEL OIL (BUNKERS)	0	0	0	
TOTAL TRADE	33,570,304	37,331,616	-3,761,312	-10.08%
SHIPPING				
GROSS REGISTERED TONNAGE	28,535,759	30,202,407	-1,666,648	-5.52%
NUMBER OF VESSELS				
TRADE VESSELS	783	809	-26	-3.21%
OTHER VESSELS	41	32	9	28.13%
NUMBER OF VESSELS	824	841	-17	-2.02%