

Lithium export quadruples in Esperance

- Southern Ports end-of-financial-year trade results show lithium export almost quadrupled through Esperance during FY17-18
- Iron ore trade decreased 3 million tonnes on the previous year following the exit of Cleveland-Cliffs from the Australian market
- Southern Ports continues to work with the State Government and other stakeholders to facilitate the continuation of iron ore export.
- Environmental licences, red-tape reduction activities and berth upgrade planning are underway to facilitate new trades

Export of hot commodity lithium almost quadrupled through Esperance during FY17-18, increasing from 55,000 tonnes the previous year to 202,000 tonnes.

The trade was bolstered by the addition of new customer Tawana Resources which exported its inaugural shipment in early 2018, joining Galaxy Resources as an exporter of spodumene concentrate through Esperance.

Overall Esperance trade dropped 24 per cent, with the downward trend led by a 27 per cent decrease in iron ore exports from 11.2 million tonnes to 8.2 million tonnes. Total throughput was 11.8 million tonnes, down from 15.5 million tonnes the previous year.

Southern Ports interim chief executive Alan Byers said the organisation continued to work with the State Government and other stakeholders to facilitate the continuation of iron ore export.

“We have seen big increases in exports in most of our trade areas including copper concentrate, nickel, spodumene and woodchips. These important gains have not outweighed the decrease in iron ore tonnage through Esperance of 3 million tonnes.

Sulphur imports also dropped completely as a result of the decision taken by First Quantum Minerals to put its Ravensthorpe operations into care and maintenance,” Mr Byers said.

Mr Byers said Southern Ports continued to work hard to attract new trade through the Port.

“During the financial year, Southern Ports secured a new long-term risk-based environmental licence which will cut some of the red tape associated with facilitating new trade.

In addition, Southern Ports facilitated 12 shipments of nickel and copper concentrate under a trial arrangement from Independence Group’s Nova operation without incident, and in a safe and sustainable manner. We are now seeking to continue that trade on a permanent basis through an amendment to our environmental licence.”

Mr Byers said works were ongoing to transform Esperance’s deep water iron ore-specific berth to allow other types of trade.

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ESPERANCE				
IMPORTS	2018	2017	Change	% change
COMMODITY				
FERTILIZERS	120,592	138,906	(18,314)	-13.18%
NICKEL	0	9,171	(9,171)	-100.00%
OIL/PETROLEUM	342,908	296,995	45,913	15.46%
SULPHUR	0	411,080	(411,080)	-100.00%
SUNDRY	10,922	22,667	(11,745)	-51.82%
TOTAL IMPORTS	474,422	878,819	-404,397	-46.02%
EXPORTS				
COMMODITY	2018	2017	Change	% change
COPPER CONCENTRATE	27,740	5,617	22,123	393.86%
GRAIN	2,492,802	2,961,912	(469,110)	-15.84%
IRON ORE	8,206,916	11,247,090	(3,040,174)	-27.03%
NICKEL	165,350	99,613	65,737	65.99%
SPODUMENE	201,655	54,672	146,983	268.85%
SUNDRY	17,598	60,549	(42,951)	-70.94%
TIMBER PRODUCTS	3,706	0	3,706	
WOODCHIPS	234,167	204,576	29,591	14.46%
TOTAL EXPORTS	11,349,934	14,634,030	-3,284,096	-22.44%
TOTAL TRADE	11,824,356	15,512,849	-3,688,493	-23.78%
TEUs IN	3,398	5,381	-1,983	-36.85%
TEUs OUT	4,668	5,821	-1,153	-19.81%
TOTAL TEUs	8,066	11,202	-3,136	-28.00%
SHIPPING				
GROSS REGISTERED TONNAGE	9,580,155	10,828,436	-1,248,281	-11.53%
NUMBER OF VESSELS			0	
TRADE VESSELS	191	210	-19	-9.05%
OTHER VESSELS	12	11	1	9.09%
NUMBER OF VESSELS	203	221	-18	-8.14%

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%