

Pilbara Local History Studies Program

MINING COMPANY HISTORY IN THE PILBARA

WOODSIDE

<http://www.woodside.com.au/>

Karratha Gas Plant

The North West Shelf Venture's facilities include the Karratha Gas Plant, one of the most advanced integrated gas production systems in the world, where LNG, domestic gas, condensate and LPG is produced.

Located 1260km north of Perth, Western Australia and covering approximately 200 hectares, the Karratha Gas Plant facilities include five LNG processing trains, two domestic gas trains, five condensate stabilisation units, two LPG fractionation units as well as storage and loading facilities for LNG, LPG and condensate.

In 2008, LNG production capacity at the Karratha Gas Plant increased to 16.3 million tonnes a year with the start-up of a fifth, 4.4 million tonne-a-year LNG processing train.

Woodside operates these facilities on behalf of the North West Shelf Venture.

RIO TINTO

www.riotintoironore.com/ENG/operations/301_pilbara.asp

Rio Tinto's iron ore operations in the Pilbara have expanded to an annual capacity of 220 million tonnes, with advanced plans to further expand. With a network of 11 mines, three shipping terminals and the largest privately owned heavy freight rail network in Australia, the Pilbara operations make up a major part of our iron ore activities globally. Rio Tinto's operations began in 1966 and have expanded to meet the growing needs of the world's iron and steel industry.

In the Pilbara, Rio wholly own Hamersley Iron's six mines and also operates the Hope Downs mine (50:50 joint venture between Rio Tinto and Hancock Prospecting Pty Limited), the Channar mine (Rio Tinto: 60 per cent) and the Eastern Range mine (Rio Tinto: 54 per cent). Rio Tinto's iron ore operations in the Pilbara also include a 53 per cent interest in Robe River Iron Associates' two mines, Mesa J and West Angelas.

BHP Billiton

www.bhpbilliton.com/bb/ourBusinesses/ironOre/bhpBillitonIronOre.jsp

BHP Billiton Iron Ore has seven mining operations in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. These operations include the biggest single-pit, open-cut ore mine in the world – the massive Mt Whaleback mine. Port Hedland and Newman are the major Pilbara towns with iron ore operations.

BHP Billiton Iron Ore uses the open-cut method of mining. This involves drilling holes into the pit floor and inserting explosives to break up the solid rock. The ore at Mt Whaleback is an exceptionally high grade, containing up to 68 per cent iron. After blasting, excavators scoop up the iron ore and load it into haul trucks, to be transported to the primary crusher.

The crusher breaks down the boulders of up to 1.5 metres in diameter into lumps about the size of a football. It is then transferred to a secondary crusher, where it is broken down into grapefruit-sized lumps.

From here, it is sent to stockpiles ready for loading onto trains. Waste rock from the mine, which is low in iron content, is retained for use in rehabilitation.

In June 2006, BHP Billiton Iron Ore celebrated 40 years since the first shipment of iron ore left the Pilbara from Port Hedland, heralding the beginning of a long and prosperous era for both the Pilbara region and Western Australia.

While the first recorded iron ore deposits in the Pilbara date back to the 1800s, development of the industry did not begin until the 1960s. The chance discovery of the massive Mt Whaleback iron ore deposit (some 400 kilometres south of Port Hedland) by Stan Hilditch in 1957, followed by the removal of a Commonwealth embargo on exporting the mineral in 1960, sparked an iron ore boom.

FMG (Fortescue Metals Group)

www.fmgj.com.au/IRM/content/Home.htm

Fortescue Metals Group is an Australian iron ore mining company with large holdings in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. The company is listed as FMG on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) and has shown spectacular share appreciation in the last few years. Fortescue Metals is led by entrepreneur and one of Australia's richest men Andrew Forrest. Forrest also founded Anaconda Nickel (now Minara Resources), one of the world's largest nickel miners.



From Construction to Production

Construction of Fortescue's port, rail and mine project commenced in February 2006 with the turning of the first sod at the Company's port site at Anderson Point in Port Hedland. Just two years later, the open-access rail infrastructure is complete, the Fortescue Herb Elliott Port is operational and the mining operations at the Company's first minesite, known as Cloudbreak, are well underway.

Shipping started on 15 May of 2008 and Project Completion was achieved within months. On the 18th of July, Fortescue's fifth anniversary, the Company successfully mined, railed and shipped at a rate of 24mtpa for a one month period. This accomplishment occurred in line with the detailed business plan for its Pilbara Project.

Citi Pacific Mining

www.citicpacificmining.com/

Citi Pacific's Sino Iron project is world class. Large-scale magnetite iron ore project located at Cape Preston, 100km south west of Karratha in Western Australia's Pilbara Region.

It is the first magnetite project of its scale in Western Australia and, when complete, will be one of the world's largest mines. It is a visionary and innovative new project which will unlock the significant potential of the Pilbara's vast resources.