

December 2, 2008

KIC welcomes Intermodal Plans

Plans to improve transport infrastructure in the Kwinana Industrial Area have been welcomed by the Kwinana Industries Council (KIC).

"KIC has been aware of plans to create a major transport facility in the Area for some time and we consider it will bring great benefits to industry, the community and the environment," said KIC director Chris Oughton.

"Smooth, efficient and well planned transport infrastructure is an essential element to reducing the impact of carrying goods on roads.

"The intermodal hub will make it more efficient to transfer goods between trucks and railway wagons, which would lead to an overall reduction in the use of truck transport across Perth's road system.

"At the moment, most of Perth's containers are moved by road, creating congestion between the major metropolitan intermodal hub at Kewdale and Fremantle.

"Making it easier to get containers onto trains has a series of accumulated benefits, ranging from decreased traffic congestion through to a lower environmental impact because rail transport is more efficient than road transport," Mr Oughton said.

KIC has been told that a series of studies carried out by logistics planning consultants has recommended the transport hub be sited in the new industrial area, Latitude 32.

"This is an ideal location: extensive research has been carried out into the siting of the facility and Latitude 32 was created with this sort of development in the mix," said Mr Oughton.

"There is enough land available for the site, the rail infrastructure is in place and is correctly configured, road links are readily accessible and the KIA is already a heavy generator of container traffic, most of which has to go by road.

"It is also anticipated there would be less impact on residences than other sites in the KIA which have been mooted in the past, such as the old marshalling yards at the southern end of the KIA.

"KIC congratulates the state government on continuing with this project and will be making a submission supporting the findings of earlier studies that Latitude 32 is the preferred location."