



24 January 2010

Media Release

Esperance Strike Called Off

Strike action proposed by members of the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) employed by the Esperance Port was called off at 7.30 this morning.

The dispute concerns negotiations for a new enterprise bargaining agreement with the Port's operational workers. The workers had proposed to stop work at 5am this morning (Sunday, January 24) and return to work on Tuesday, January 26, at 5am.

At last minute negotiations on Saturday afternoon the parties agreed on a package of arrangements that will apply for 2010.

For 2010, the Port offered the workers an immediate six percent pay increase backdated to November last year and a 2.5 percent incremental pay rise in July this year.

Issues relating to the rostering of labor were also dealt with and it was agreed to establish a regime to deal with the peak demands that is required by the Port and its customers.

Both parties agreed to negotiate a new three-year deal before by December 31 2010.

Acting Esperance Port CEO Devinder Grewal said the Port was delighted with the decision of its work force to call off the strike.

“There was the likelihood of on-going industrial action if an agreement could not be reached, so the arrangements we have agreed to gives the Port time to deal with its financial issues and negotiate anew agreement without the threat of strikes,” Dr Grewal said.

“The cost of the pay increase and incremental increase will be more than \$900,000 this year, but the cost to the Port and its customers, if this two-day stoppage action had gone ahead, was in the vicinity of \$13 million. In addition there was the possibility of further stoppages.

“The Port has a very good workforce and the good will shown today will enable us to go forward and resolve current problems being experienced by the Port.”

Ends

Further information: 9072 3333