

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Monday, 9 March 2020

### **PORT HEDLAND ON SHOW AS PREMIERS, CHIEF MINISTERS HEAD TO PILBARA**

The engine room of the nation will be on display in July when Australia's top bureaucrats and MPs arrive for the first Council of Australian Governments meeting to be held in regional WA.

The chief ministers and premiers from each State and Territory and the Federal Government will attend the meeting.

It is hoped MPs and chief ministers will take the opportunity to visit mining industry operations not only in Port Hedland but Karratha and Newman.

Talking about the visit last year, Premier Mark McGowan said he expected it would be a "huge eye opener" for those who had never visited the Pilbara.

Port Hedland Industries Council Chief Executive Kirsty Danby said she was delighted Port Hedland had been chosen as the first regional centre to host COAG.

She said it recognised the value of Port Hedland and in particular the Port of Port Hedland.

"We've seen strong growth in the region as a direct result of the performance of the resource companies, which are boosting exports and economic value for the nation, the State and the region," Kirsty said.

"This is a benefit for all Australians.

"It is timely and fortunate that we have the positive attention on Port Hedland.

"It is also an opportunity to showcase the hard work and dedication of the entire Port Hedland community to growing the town and the Port."

A study commissioned by PHIC shows that the Port of Port Hedland is one of Australia's most important pieces of economic infrastructure.

The ACIL Allen report found the Port delivers \$35 billion of Gross State Product to WA each year and supports one in every 20 WA jobs.

It said enabling the Port to grow over the next 10 years could deliver:

- \$37 billion additional economic contribution nationally
- \$26.4 billion total economic contribution to WA
- 5338 FTE jobs a year
- \$11 billion additional economic contribution in the Pilbara
- 1500 FTE jobs a year