
Double celebration for Roy Hill parties

Robert Dougherty

Port Hedland was pulsating with activity last week with Australian mining magnate Gina Rinehart celebrating an iron ore ship send-off and christening five locomotives in the town.

The Hancock Prospecting chairwoman toured Roy Hill's port facility and mining operations revelling in achieving 55 million tonne per annum to become the largest single iron ore mine in Australia.

Shareholders and guests including executives from Berge Bulk, Marubeni, POSCO and China Steel Corporation sailed out on the carrier Berge Toubkal.

"This historic moment and treat of travelling on the bridge of a ship as we head out of the world's busiest iron ore port here at Port Hedland, and the largest revenue earning port in Australia," said Mrs Rinehart.

"As we understand only the second time this has been permitted from Port Hedland, and is not permitted in other bulk carrier ports, so rare and very special — and, how fantastic to mark we've reached 55 mtpa."

"When I look out from the bridge of the ship, one of the first things I think about is the huge voyage of the iron ore she is carrying, made possible by our staff."

The party was then helicoptered to the rail yard where five locomotives were christened with ginger beer, named after Hancock and Roy Hill executive director Tad Watroba, Roy Hill's minority owners Marubeni, POSCO and China Steel Corporation and Roy Hill chief executive Barry Fitzgerald.

"The locomotives, which are parked here in front of us, are part of a fleet of 21 locomotives at Roy Hill, they play an essential role," said Mrs Rinehart.

"Each train load brings just over 32,000 tonnes of iron ore from the mine to the port, carried in 232 ore cars — we will be adding four new locomotives to the fleet in about six months, to

strengthen our operations." Earlier in the week, the company had launched its fifth fleet of pink mining trucks in support of

breast cancer patients, with the first named Berge Toubkal and the second christened Cass Ropata after an employee who has survived breast cancer — additional trucks are planned to be commissioned in October.

Mrs Rinehart also said government red tape had hampered new mega-projects like Roy Hill in Australia.

"Just to get this project to pre-construction level took many years to get through more than 4,000 government approvals, permits and licences," she said.

"This is a significant part of the reason you don't see much in the way of new mega-projects — investment in Australia has dwindled to levels not seen since Whitlam anti-business days, when investment dried to a trickle."



Shareholders and guests including executives from Berge Bulk, Marubeni, POSCO and China Steel Corporation sail out on the carrier Berge Toubkal from Port Hedland. Pictures: Roy Hill



A locomotive named after Roy Hill chief executive Barry Fitzgerald is christened with ginger beer.



Iron ore carrier Berge Toubkal sails out from Port Hedland.



Roy Hill chief executive Barry Fitzgerald, Hancock Prospecting chairwoman Gina Rinehart with Hancock and Roy Hill executive director Tad Watroba.