

Out and About

Iron Road continued its annual involvement in some popular community events throughout September and October 2015.

Representatives Tim Scholz and Brad Hunter spoke with many interested locals and people from further afield at the Iron Road tent at the Wudinna Show on 19 September 2015. The Show is always a great opportunity to chat with community members about different aspects of the CEIP and Iron Road again presented the Best Overall Horse/Event Winner prize.

Over the same weekend, teams from the Wudinna and Karcultaby Area Schools competed in the International Pedal Prix Race held in Murray Bridge. While we proudly sponsored the teams, unfortunately this year Iron Road could not participate (last year Tilly Oborn got behind the pedals) but from all reports, the teams did a great job of representing their communities.

On Saturday 10 October 2015, stormy skies set an impressive backdrop for the start of the Iron Road Port to Port Fun Run from Cape Hardy to Port Neill. Runners and walkers participated in either a 6 km or 12 km course, finishing at the Port Neill jetty with food and activities for families to follow at the foreshore. The storm held off (although the flies did not!), the sun came out and a great morning was had by all. Iron Road staff members Brad Hunter and Kelly Frost enjoyed chatting to people as they walked the 6 km track.



Iron Road Port to Port Fun Run participants braved the threatening clouds.

Looking for “up-side”

Iron Road recently completed an optimisation study for the CEIP and the subsequent report looks at ways in which savings and efficiencies can be made to improve the project. The current downturn in the mining industry along with the fall in the Australian dollar actually presents opportunity for upside in the economic case for the project because while the market is low, there is much greater competition for construction work, the supply of specialised equipment and personnel.

Iron Road Managing Director Andrew Stocks said: “The optimisation work has achieved its aim of reducing delivery risk and operating costs estimates through detailed planning and improved flexibility, especially in the new mine design. We have continued to fine-tune the process plant layout and modularisation strategy and we are now updating our reserve estimate accordingly.

“Importantly, the rail and port facilities will have sufficient capacity for an expansion of operations as well as third party use and is particularly well placed to service grain producers.”

No doubt people will notice that some figures and details coming out of the optimisation study differ slightly from those that we have previously shared publicly and that will be published in the impending Mining Lease Proposal (MLP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Further refinement of the project is inevitable as technologies, markets and prices evolve. Years of studies place Iron Road in a good position to assess the impact of any project changes. If these are likely to result in differing environmental impacts than previously reported, Iron Road will ensure the community is informed, appropriate studies undertaken and, if required, additional approvals obtained.

Iron Road is confident the outcome of the optimisation work will make the project more attractive to the investment community while maintaining Iron Road’s commitment to high environmental and social standards.

Approvals News

The Iron Road team has been busy finalising the MLP and EIS for formal submission to the State Government and is currently on track for this to take place in November 2015. The Government will then decide on the start date and duration of its official statutory consultation period. As with every mining or major development in the State, this consultation and assessment period is a Government-led process.

The Government’s intention is to undertake open public meetings, which Iron Road will be part of, across the Eyre Peninsula although the locations are yet to be confirmed. The Government will publicly advertise these meetings through various mediums including local papers as well as various Government websites such as www.sa.gov.au and www.statedevelopment.sa.gov.au.

The necessarily detailed approvals documents will be available online and hard copies can also be viewed at various Council offices. Community members and stakeholders that have been identified as being directly impacted by the project have already been contacted by the Government and will receive their own copies of the documents.

During the statutory consultation period, members of the public are invited to provide formal feedback on Iron Road’s applications for the development of the CEIP via the Government’s submission process which will be outlined in the advertisements and at the public meetings.