

NEWS RELEASE

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PORT HEDLAND TOWAGE SERVICE CONTRACT

BHP Billiton announced today it has appointed Rivtow Marine Pty Ltd to operate its 14-vessel tugboat fleet in the Port Hedland Port.

The contract has been awarded following a competitive tender process for BHP Billiton's largest tugboat fleet based on safety, capability and cost-effectiveness criteria.

"Rivtow has been awarded the contract to operate the 14 tugs in addition to the four tugs it currently operates in the Port and will now operate BHP Billiton's entire towage fleet in Port Hedland."

Announcing the new contract, BHP Billiton Iron Ore President, Jimmy Wilson, also outlined measures BHP Billiton had taken to safely increase towage capacity in Port Hedland.

"BHP Billiton has made a significant investment in the towage service capability in the Port. Construction on a new Tug Harbour at Hunt Point will commence shortly and we have purchased six new tugs which will join the fleet in the coming 12 months," he said.

"We have also developed additional training for tugboat operators such as the Tug master advanced training programs and we have added four Advanced Rotor Tugs and moorings.

"We would also like to thank Teekay for their service to the users of Port Hedland over more than 10 years."

BHP Billiton will work closely with Teekay Marine, Rivtow Marine and the Pilbara Ports Authority to ensure a safe and smooth transition of services over the coming six months.

Further information on BHP Billiton can be found at: www.bhpbilliton.com.

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