BHP Billiton is growing in the Pilbara to meet increased global demand for iron ore. To accommodate this growth, BHP Billiton Iron Ore is seeking Government approval to build a new port, the proposed Outer Harbour at Port Hedland, Western Australia.

The Office of Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) determined that the Proposal required assessment at the level of Public Environmental Review (PER) under the Western Australian Environment Protection Act 1986 (EP Act). The then Commonwealth Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts determined that the Proposal (EPBC2008/4159) is a controlled action under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act), and is to be assessed by the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPac) at the level of Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The controlling provisions under the EPBC Act are Sections 18 and 18A (listed threatened species and communities), Sections 20 and 20A (listed migratory species) and Sections 23 and 24A (Commonwealth marine areas).

A coordinated assessment under both the EP Act and the EPBC Act is to be undertaken for this Proposal, based on the one environmental assessment document. BHP Billiton has prepared and published for public review a single PER/Draft EIS in accordance with Western Australian Government procedures under the EP Act and in accordance with Part 8, and published for public review in accordance with Section 103, of the EPBC Act.

BHP Billiton has prepared a project summary which is available free of charge from designated BHP Billiton offices as specified below. The PER/Draft EIS is available for examination at www.bhpbilliton.com

Copies of the PER/Draft EIS may be purchased for $10 from:
BHP Billiton Iron Ore
225 St Georges Terrace
Perth WA 6100
Telephone: (08) 6224 4444
Email: growth@bhpbilliton.com

A CD version of the PER/Draft EIS can be obtained from the above address for no charge.

Persons with special needs (e.g. visually impaired, English as a second language) can contact BHP Billiton to make arrangements to access the information in the PER/Draft EIS.

Copies of the PER/Draft EIS will be available for examination at:
- Department of Environment and Conservation Library/Reading Room 4th Floor, The Atrium, 168 St Georges Terrace, PERTH WA 6000
- Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (ACT), at the Library John Gorton Building, King Edward Terraces, Parkes, ACT 2600
- Port Hedland Public Libraries:
  - South Hedland Library, Leake Street, South Hedland
  - Port Hedland Library, Dempster St, Port Hedland
- BHP Billiton Community Office, 1 Wedge St, Port Hedland

Public submissions close on 13 June 2011.

How to make a submission
Public submissions in relation to both WA and Commonwealth government matters can be forwarded to the WA Office of Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).

The EPA prefers submissions to be made electronically using one of the following:
- By email to submissions@epa.wa.gov.au
- By email to the officer michael.pengelly@epa.wa.gov.au

Alternatively submissions can be:
- Posted to: Chairman, Office of Environmental Protection Authority, Locked Bag 33, Cloisters Square WA 3850, Attention: Michael Pengelly; or
- Delivered to the Office of Environmental Protection Authority, Level 4, The Atrium, 168 St Georges Terrace, Perth, Attention: Michael Pengelly.

If you have any questions on how to make a submission, please ring the EPA assessment officer, Michael Pengelly on (08) 6467 5428.