



An ocean liner tied up at the Port of Broome jetty. Broome Port Authority is set to become Kimberley Ports Authority. Picture: Glenn Cordingley

Ports shake-up will lead to Kimberley authority

■ Glenn Cordingley

The Broome Port Authority reached a key milestone last week with the introduction of legislation to transform it into one overarching enterprise covering the entire region.

The Ports Legislation Amendment Bill 2013 introduced to State Parliament will see four new regional port authorities established — Kimberley, Pilbara, Mid West and Southern — while Fremantle remains a standalone port authority.

The existing Broome Port Authority currently manages the Port of Broome on behalf of the State Government.

Following passage of the legislation, it will become the

Kimberley Ports Authority on July 1, 2014.

In the second half of next year — in addition to managing governance and other regulatory functions at the Port of Broome — the Kimberley Ports Authority will assume a similar role for regional ports, including Derby, Wyndham, Cockatoo Island and Irvine.

Broome Port Authority chief executive Vic Justice said the model would help streamline operations and permit uniform strategic planning for the benefit of regional maritime business.

Transport Minister Troy Buswell said the Bill would improve efficiency, reduce red tape, maximise capacity and would benefit communities.

“The strong and rapidly growing demand for Western Australian commodities and export capacity at our ports means we must have a model to ensure our ports have the most effective governance framework for the future,” he said.

“The current governance model has served the State well but times have changed and we need to reinvigorate how our ports operate.”

He said the reform would ensure the wealth generated by increased exports was returned to the community through improved health, education, police, transport and other services.

The new port authorities will deliver better planning and co-ordination of port de-

velopment across the State, less bureaucracy, fewer boards and improved resourcing of smaller ports.

Mr Buswell said WA's ports had handled massive increases in the State's exports over the past 13 years and were a significant part of the local economy.

Since 2000, the value of WA ports' exports has quadrupled to \$101 billion in 2012-13 — almost doubling WA's contribution to the nation's total value, from 26 per cent to 44 per cent.

“These new authorities are crucial to their respective regional economies, as well as the State economy, and this reform follows extensive consultation with port customers and industry,” Mr Buswell said.



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