

LOCAL NEWS | COMMUNITY | CONTACT: NEYSHA REEVES 0417 051 625 | neysha.reeves@gmail.com

# Esperance



Spray on: Farmers like Lyndon Mickel are happy with the decision to allow them to use 2,4-D Ester 800 this summer. Photo: LARA LADYMAN

## Chemical win for farmers



NEYSHA REEVES  
neysha.reeves@gmail.com  
0447 061 625

ESPERANCE farmers had a small win recently after Esperance Shire councillors reversed their earlier decision and voted in favour of allowing 2,4-D Ester 800 on their properties during the summer period this year.

The decision was made at the Esperance Shire ordinary council meeting after much indecision from councillors regarding the use of chemicals.

In late September several farmers attended a council meeting at Scaddan to voice their support for the use of the

"...it provides the best option to control broadleaf weeds particularly melons and helps reduce trash flow issues..."

-LYNDON MICKEL

chemical, but despite this councillors voted 4:3 against the approval of the permit due to health and liability concerns.

In a bid to reverse the decision, the South East Premium wheat Growers Association teamed up with its silver sponsor Nularm, the only manufacturer of 2,4-D in Australia.

Nularm research and development manager Andrew Wells gave a presenta-

tion to shire councillors at the October all purpose committee meeting to clear up any misunderstanding or confusion associated with use of the chemical.

Mr Wells covered a range of technical information including some background history, physical and chemical properties, toxicology, regional monitoring data and trial work that has been conducted over the last few years.

SEPPWA president Lyndon Mickel said it was due to the correct information being put in front of the councillors that saw the original decision reversed to a 7-2 vote in the favour of the use of 2,4-D Ester 800 under the permit system.

"SEPPWA believes it is an important chemical for farmers to use, mainly during summer spraying, as it provides the best option to control broadleaf weeds, particularly melons, and helps reduce trash flow issues through the bar at seedling time," he said.

"Our members should not have a valuable chemical option removed on the basis of a lack of information being given to the councillors, and this is what contributed to the original decision against the chemical being made."

Mr Mickel said SEPPWA was absolutely ecstatic that the Shire firstly accepted the invitation to listen to an expert on the chemical, and secondly reversed the vote from the September meeting.

In 2006 the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority, which is the regulatory body, suspended the registration of the chemical 2,4-D Ester 800 because of concerns about the damage it could do to non-targeted plants and the environment.

## Port town ideal for iron producers

THE newly established association of iron ore producers and explorers, the Yilgarn Iron Producers Association, visited Esperance last week to meet stakeholder groups.

During the visit YIPA chairman Gregory Bromley and secretary David Ulling held discussions with the Esperance Ports Sea and Land and took some time out to look at some of the infrastructure in town.

While the group was in town the Esperance Chamber of Commerce and Industry held a meeting between the representatives of YIPA, the Shire of Esperance and the Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission.

ECCI chief executive Grant Shipp said Yilgarn iron ore was already being exported through the Esperance Port and over time this would grow with the number of mining companies and exploration in the Yilgarn region.

"Esperance is well placed with the majority of infrastructure already in place to maximise this opportunity," he said.

The Yilgarn is already an established iron producing region with eight million tonnes per annum of direct shipping ore exported and a potential aggregate iron endowment of more than 10 billion tonnes of magnetite and 1bn tonnes of DSO haematite ores.

YIPA chairman Gregory Bromley said the cooperative development of rail and other infrastructure could turn the central Yilgarn into Australia's next big iron ore powerhouse.

"This would have a significant economic benefit to the Yilgarn-Goldfields-Esperance area," he said.

Mr Shipp agreed the Yilgarn region had enormous potential and said it was great to see the formation of YIPA. "It will allow for a coordinated assessment of the infrastructure required," he said.

"There is about 150km of rail required: all other infrastructure is more or less in place for shipment out of Esperance."

Mr Shipp said it would be some time before Esperance saw the benefits, but if the forward estimates were correct, there would be significant benefits to the town when the ore began to be shipped through the Esperance Port, including employment and further infrastructure development.

NEYSHA REEVES



Surveying the scene: YIPA Chairperson, Gregory Bromley took some time out to look over Esperance infrastructure at the Port during a recent visit to the town. Photo: NEYSHA REEVES

## Esperance Diary

- **November 3:** The Senior Citizens Centre will be holding a Free Great Gardens Show from 6.30 until 9.30pm, bookings are essential for the event. For further information, or to make your booking call 90831500.
- **November 4:** A free Terrific Travel Night will be held at the Esperance Senior Citizens Centre starting at 7 until 9.30pm. Although the event is free bookings are essential, for more information or to make a booking contact the Senior Citizens Centre on 9083 1500.
- **November 6 - 14:** The Cliffs Esperance International Tennis Tournament is part of the 2010-11 Australian Pro Tour and will be held at the Esperance Tennis Courts on Black Street from November 6-14, with free entry.
- **November 14:** A live broadcast of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra will be broadcast at the Esperance Civic Centre on November 14, drinks and light snacks will be served at 6.45pm, and the concert will begin at 8pm. Entry into the concert is free of charge.

## Has your photo appeared in the Kalgoorlie Miner?

Take advantage of our photo press service with this fantastic value pack offer

**SPECIAL OFFER**

**VALUE PACK - \$30.00**

**PACK INCLUDES:**  
3x (5"x7")

NORMALLY \$42.00

Other sizes available!  
from 6"x4" to 20"x32"



**Kalgoorlie Miner**  
TELEPHONE 9022 0555