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# YIPA holds first meeting

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THE Yilgarn Iron Ore Producers Association held its inaugural meeting last week.

Junior explorer Mindax managing director Greg Bromley was elected chairman of the committee created at the meeting.

YIPA was established to ensure better port and rail access for the growing iron ore opportunities in the Yilgarn region.

Mindax estimates its Mount Forrest asset could contain a 2.8 billion tonne magnetite resource, which is likely to be transported through the Goldfields to the Esperance port.

Mr Bromley said there were 12 groups of iron ore producers and explorers represented at the first meeting and another two had expressed their interest in becoming involved.

"Most people are aware there has been some bottlenecks at

the Esperance port and we believe the association can contribute to that debate," he said.

"This is a key example of the sort of things we expect to involve ourselves in."

Mr Bromley said he expected to see the port develop over the next five years to deal with about 30 million tonnes per annum.

"From the infrastructure providers' point of view, the ability to deal with a group of miners rather than individuals is an advantage," he said.

"And one of those advantages is being able to give the providers some sort of schedule over time of how much material will be moving down the rail and through the ports."

YIPA chairman and secretary David Utting also met with Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission chief executive Robert Hicks last Friday to discuss the progress of the association's

agenda.

Mr Hicks said the Yilgarn area was underrated and he hoped YIPA would assist in lifting the region's profile and contribute to the future sustainability of the region.

"As we grow in the iron ore sector, we are spreading our risk so we are not dependent on gold and nickel," he said.

"The GEDC will be providing background research and information to assist the association in delivering the outcomes they need."

"There is an expectation a lot of the products will be moved through Kalgoorlie-Boulder and on to Esperance."

Mr Bromley said the association was in the process of being incorporated and its committee would be meeting again this week to put together its position paper.