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BATHURST TAKES NEXT STEP IN PORT UPGRADE

Bathurst Resources (ASX & NZX: BTU) has commenced the next stage of its planned NZ\$30 million port upgrade at Westport with the construction of a covered storage shed for an estimated cost of NZ\$5 million.

The infrastructure includes a covered shed with a capacity of approximately 9,000 tonnes which will replace the existing open storage area. The storage shed will have the capability to receive coal initially by truck, and later, by rail via an overhead conveyor. After storage, the coal will be transferred into a hopper located within the shed which feeds onto the existing ship loader.

The new upgraded facility will have the ability to load vessels at either the river wharf or, at a later date, at the inner wharf. Nelson based firm, Brightwater Engineering, has been engaged to design and construct the shed which is expected to take around 5 months to complete.

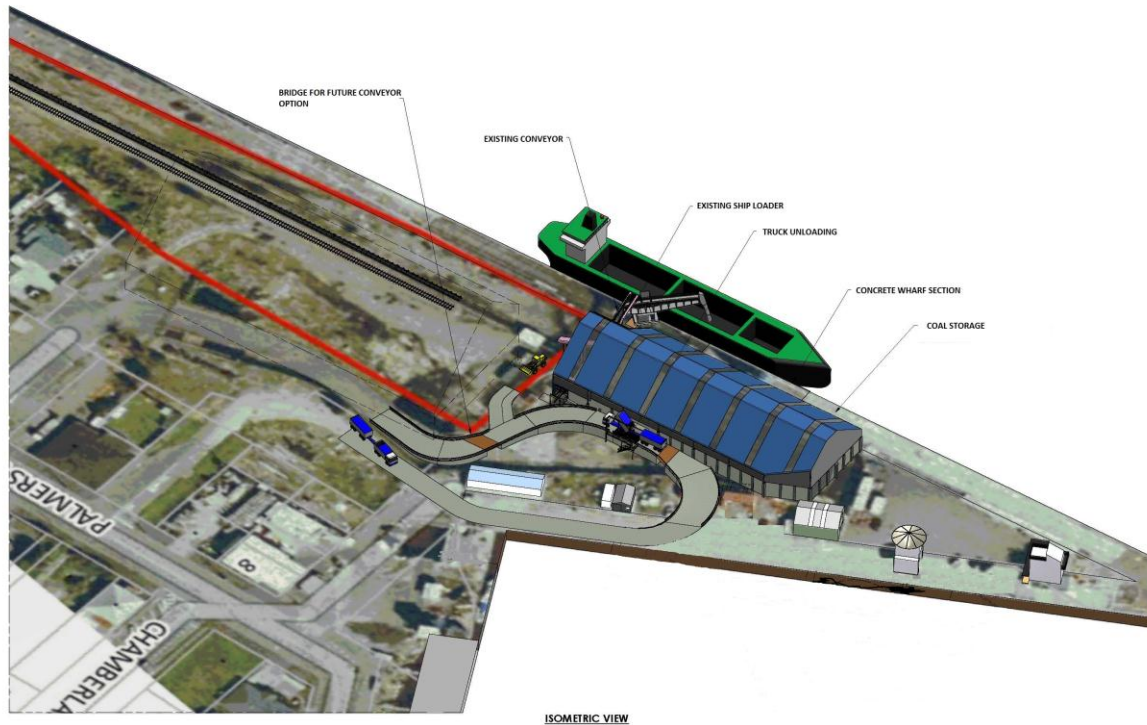
The storage shed is the next stage in the logistics chain for route to market for the high quality metallurgical coal Bathurst will produce from its Buller Coal Project. Bathurst has been using the existing facilities at Westport to ship coal from its Cascade operation on the Denniston Plateau. Coal from the project is currently trucked from the mine to the port where it is transhipped to Port Taranaki.

The Westport upgrade is part of the Company's commitment to improve the port infrastructure in anticipation of the production from the adjacent Escarpment block. The next stage of construction, subject to the necessary approvals being obtained, will include the installation of an aerial transportation system to largely replace the trucking fleet.

The construction of the storage shed has been undertaken in conjunction with the Westport Harbour pursuant to a Heads of Agreement signed in 2011. It is part of an overall plan to develop the Port of Westport into a first class bulk handling port.

Commenting on the upgrade, Bathurst's Managing Director, Mr Hamish Bohannon said:

“This is an important next step in our long term commitment to the community of Westport as we develop our export coking coal project at Escarpment.”



On behalf of Bathurst Resources Ltd

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ENDS

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