



Location: 50km West of Pannawonica, Pilbara region, WA
Client: Rio Tinto Iron Ore
Commodity: Iron ore
Contract duration: February 2008 to November 2009



In April 2008, HWE Mining was awarded its first major contract by Rio Tinto Iron Ore to provide mine development services at the new Mesa A mine in Western Australia's Pilbara region.

Located 50 kilometres west of Pannawonica alongside the North West Coastal Highway, HWE Mining is contracted to manage the mine development works and all associated infrastructure at the Mesa A operation.

The contract scope involves the mine pre-strip as well as the design and construction of the ore handling and train loading plant in a multidisciplinary collaboration with the Construction and Industrial Divisions of Leighton Contractors.

On completion of the development works by late 2009, the Mesa A mine will be operated by Rio Tinto and will be linked to the company's Port Lambert operation via the installation of a 45 kilometre extension of the existing Robe Valley rail line. This will provide the Mesa A mine

with direct access to processing, stockpiling and ship loading facilities in Cape Lambert.

The 249 million tonne Pisolitic ore body is scheduled to produce 25 million tonnes of iron ore per year over an expected 11 year mine life commencing in December 2009.

The pre-strip activities commenced in May 2008 and will be completed in February 2009. A pre strip workforce of 76 will be employed at its peak. Construction work will mobilise to site in August 2008 and the workforce will ramp up to a peak of 270 people by January 2009.

The Mesa A project is supported by over 50 HWE Mining, Leighton Contractor and contract employees in Perth and Melbourne who provide a range of design, infrastructure and support services to the project.



Scope of work

Project management

- Provision of Registered Mine Manager and other statutory positions
- Management of mine development works
- Management of safety and health, environment, community and Indigenous affairs, human resources, industrial relations, procurement, logistics

Pre-strip

- Site clearing and grubbing
- Topsoil stripping and stockpiling
- Establishment of mining faces, mine roads, waste dumps and ore stockpiles
- Movement of 8.8 mt of waste and ore
- Production of six million tonnes of blasted stocks

Design and Construction

- Ore processing plant to process 25Mtpa
- Train loading plant to load 6 trains/day at 7,200 tph
- Earthworks infrastructure including dams, roads, drains, stockpile pads, hardstands
- Structural infrastructure including workshops, offices, ANFO plant, magazines and fuel facilities
- Services infrastructure including power, water and communications

EQUIPMENT	
Liebherr R9250	1
Cat 992G	1
Komatsu 630E	5
Cat D10T	2
Cat 16H	2
Cat 777F WC's	2
Ingersol Rand DM25	1
Ingersol Rand DM45	1