

Exporter threatens to quit port

■ Nick Evans

The State Government is again under fire for fees at its monopoly ports, with an anchor tenant at Esperance threatening to quit the port over "un-commercial and unacceptable" new charges.

Merchant Shipping ships about 20,000 containers through Esperance each year, exporting mostly nickel and gold concentrate for WA miners including Western Areas and the Kalgoorlie Super Pit.

The company entered the port in 2009 in the wake of the Esperance lead scandal, using fully enclosed

shipping containers to move concentrate to help allay community concerns about the export of mining product through Esperance.

But Merchant is now trialling exports through Fremantle Port for its client's products, after the Southern Ports Authority introduced a contentious new charge that Merchant says will increase its monthly costs by as much as 70 per cent.

Merchant is the second major exporter to quit Esperance this year, after First Quantum Minerals moved in February to ship the

nickel hydroxide produced at its Ravensthorpe nickel mine through Fremantle.

In early May the Southern Ports Authority (SPA) told Merchant it intended to impose a charge of \$86.18 a day for containers stored at the port for longer than a week. Merchant ships its client's product on a monthly basis.

The new fee comes on top of a 5 per cent annual lift in other charges imposed by the SPA early this year. In a scathing letter to Transport Minister Dean Nalder, Merchant boss Chris Dunphy said the new charge would add up to

\$350,000 a month to its costs of using Esperance.

"Despite the fanfare, SPA has not provided the efficiency and commercial acumen that was promised from the integration of three ports," Mr Dunphy said.

"We now deal with a tiered management structure whose focus is upon justifying their increased cost-base with higher charges.

"SPA's new Port Access agreement places the onus for performance upon the client (us) while abrogating the port from any consequences."

A Department of Transport spo-

kesperson said the SPA had presented a new port access proposal to Merchant Shipping.

"The Southern Port Authority has engaged with Merchant Shipping and has provided the company with a new port access proposal, which includes a generous seven-day free container storage offer, compared to standard ports practice to charge storage fees after three days," the spokesperson said.

The spokesperson said average costs at the Port of Esperance had been cut by nearly 10 per cent following amalgamation.

Cultural diversity on vibrant display

■ Tegan Guthrie

Goldfielders will be able to travel the world through food and music during the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder's Multicultural Festival next weekend.

The annual celebration of Kalgoorlie-Boulder's diverse community will be held at centennial Park on June 12, from 11am to 3pm.

This year's festival will be headlined by Zimbabwean band Shangara Jive, as well as Muchos Mariachi, Perth's only authentic mariachi band, who will be roving through the crowd.

African Djembe Drumming workshops and guided yoga session will also be a feature of the festival, and both require pre-registration.

Information stands, performances, displays and market



Isabella O'Callaghan, 10, Jayde Hardman, 10, Michaela Powell, 17, Sarah Nelson, 14, Piper Redman, 13, and Tamika Wood, 14, are looking forward to the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder's Multicultural Festival next weekend. Picture: Louise White

stalls from community members who hail from the Philippines, India, Ireland, South Africa, Thailand, New Zealand, Indonesia and Samoa, who now call Kalgoorlie-Boulder home, will also be peppered throughout the grounds.

CKB chief executive John Walker said it was fantastic to

see the many cultural groups participating in the event.

"There is such a rich array of cultures here in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, and they will be sharing skills like henna tattooing, Indian turban wrapping, Cook Island traditional dancing, New Zealand Maori traditional dress demonstrations, Abor-

iginal basket weaving, Bollywood dancing, African drumming workshops and much more," he said.

To register for the drumming and yoga workshops, email mailbag@ckb.wa.gov.au or for more information, visit www.facebook.com/Cityof-Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

Double demerits this long weekend

■ Monique Preston

Police will be cracking down on drivers doing the wrong thing this long weekend.

Extra police will be on the roads in the Goldfields to make sure drivers are behaving.

Double demerit points will also apply to seven offences if detected between yesterday and 11.59pm on Monday.

The double demerits will be issued for speeding, seatbelt offences, drink-driving, drug-driving, failing to obey red traffic lights or red control traffic arrows and the illegal use of mobile phones.

Goldfields Esperance district traffic co-ordinator Sergeant Russell Chamberlain said traffic enforcement group officers from Perth would join local police in keeping roads safe this WA Day weekend.

The Perth officers will be on unmarked motorcycles and in unmarked police cars and there will also be an increase in random breath tests this weekend.

"Our focus is not only on highways, but also in towns," Sgt Chamberlain said.

"All officers in the district are expected to have a focus towards making the roads safer.

"Ultimately, we want to be out there to ensure people on the roads are doing the right thing."

Sgt Chamberlain said he hoped everyone would be behaving on the roads and no tickets would have to be written.

Trucks makeover puts colour into fundraising

■ Jarrod Lucas

A trial of lightweight haul truck trays at the Tropicana gold mine has turned pink and blue in the name of two cancer charities.

The Hercules tray, manufactured by DT HiLoad Australia, has been painted pink in support of the McGrath Foundation and blue in support of the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia, and carries the logos of both groups.

Mine owners AngloGold Ashanti (70 per cent and Inde-

pendence Group 30 per cent), along with mining contractor Macmahon, have supported fundraising initiatives at Tropicana which have raised nearly \$4000 split between the charities. Tropicana, which poured its one millionth ounce last November, began the 90-day trial on Tuesday.

A decision on rolling out the trays across the Tropicana mining fleet, comprising 17 Caterpillar 793F trucks valued at more than \$100 million, is expected by the December quarter. DT HiLoad general

manager sales Steve Turner said the Hercules trays were designed to increase carrying capacity by about 20 tonnes at a fill factor of 90 per cent.

Each tray has a capacity to hold 233 tonnes and takes two to three months to manufacture, he said. AngloGold's commercial and mine improvement superintendent Steven Hulme said the trays could potentially result in a 14 per cent reduction in diesel consumption per tonne moved, which would reduce costs and benefit the environment.



Peter Ranking, Richard McLeod, Steven Hulme, Paul Willems, David Scott, Sy Van Dyk, Duncan Gibbs, Steve Turner and Michael Finnegan with their cheques. Picture: AngloGold Ashanti

Celebrate WA Day with bumper round of sport

■ Josh Chiat

Forget Race Round and the Goldfields Football League grand final — the WA day long weekend has become, indisputably, the biggest weekend of the Goldfields' sporting calendar.

The headline event is the 2016 Leonora Golden Gift, a carnival of sporting flavour

that spans the gamut of leisurely and not-so-leisurely activities including live entertainment, dirt-track horse-racing meets on Saturday and Monday, an art prize and, of course, Australia's richest mile running race, the Golden Gift.

Footy is still on, and today brings one of the biggest fixtures in years as WA's oldest

country football club Boulder City celebrate their 120th anniversary against the resurgent Kalgoorlie City at Digger Daws Oval.

Squash's Golden Open will say goodbye to its traditional YMCA home after 44 years.

There are 19 divisions including the professional men's PSA tournament this weekend.

The \$5000 final is on Monday at 11am.

Also on Monday, the Goldfields Financial Services State Hardcourt Championships finals take place at the Goldfields Tennis Club.

Retired Australian Fed Cup captain Alicia Molik is a surprise entrant in the women's and mixed doubles action.

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