



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Shire of Esperance**

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## **PROPOSED NICKEL SULPHATE PLANT**

Esperance Shire Councillors and staff met with concerned Myrup residents last night to hear community concerns over a proposed Nickel Sulphate Plant earmarked for Esperance.

Alpha Fine Chemicals (AFC) has purchased a property on Myrup Road so they can commence an investigative process into its suitability as a location for a Nickel Sulphate Plant. Not all questions could be answered at the meeting as the company have only just embarked on the site investigation process. The company now commences the process of testing and exploring the site to see if it is capable of meeting the criteria they need to progress. If the site cannot meet all necessary requirements they will need to look for another site.

Shire President Victoria Brown said "Council welcome any new industry to Esperance as long as there is no impact to our pristine environment. We are always looking to diversify our economy and build on employment opportunities; however this cannot occur to the detriment of our natural assets.

"It was agreed at the meeting that it is vital that the community have an opportunity to become engaged in the process. The residents resigned themselves to the fact that as it is in the very early stages of the project, that they and the Council trust in the process."

CEO Matthew Scott said, "The Shire will ensure the community have every opportunity to express concerns and receive satisfactory responses. It is essential that the community, Council and AFC continue to communicate throughout this process.

"The Shire will support sustainable, environmentally sound developments that will bring economic investment to our region, bringing with it jobs and investment and we encourage our community to be a part of the process that allows proponents the opportunity to examine the suitability of a proposal."

At the meeting it was explained to the Myrup residents that no application has been made to the Shire of Esperance for planning approval, however the Shire expects this will be forwarded to the Development Assessment Panel (DAP) given the expected value of the development. Council will have two representatives on the five person panel, however they can only assess the application on planning grounds. Matters such as environmental and water approvals will be considered by the other relevant agencies.

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**Ends**

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