



# The use of a Siwertell unloader in Western Australia

Green Ports Webinar Series

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Rebecca James  
Manager Environment

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Connecting Western Australia to the world



Fremantle Ports  
acknowledges the Noongar  
people as the Traditional  
Custodians of port land and  
waters and pays respect to  
their Elders past and present.



# Fremantle Ports

## A Government Trading Enterprise

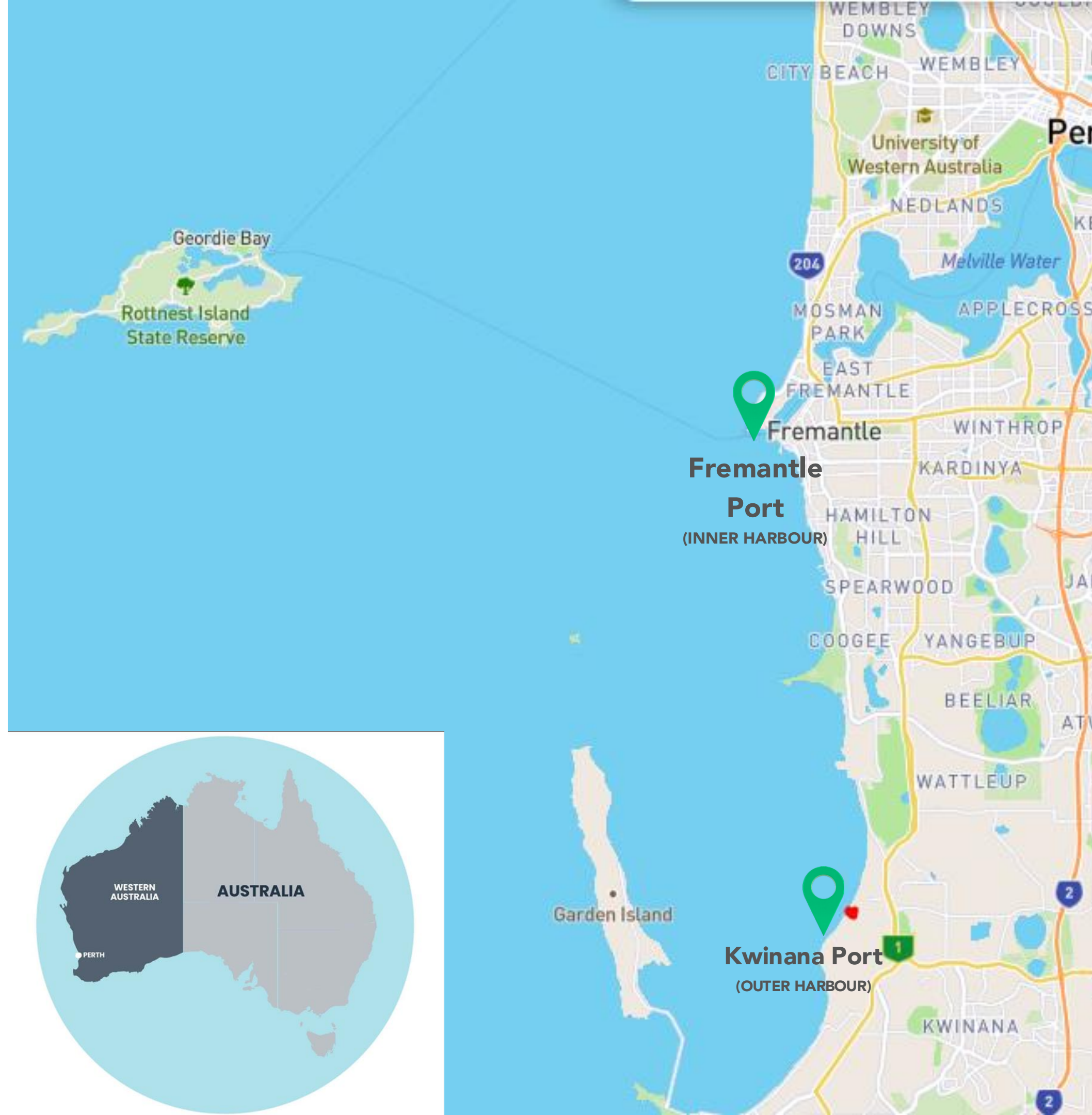
- Owned by the state of Western Australia, acts commercially and to the benefit of the State

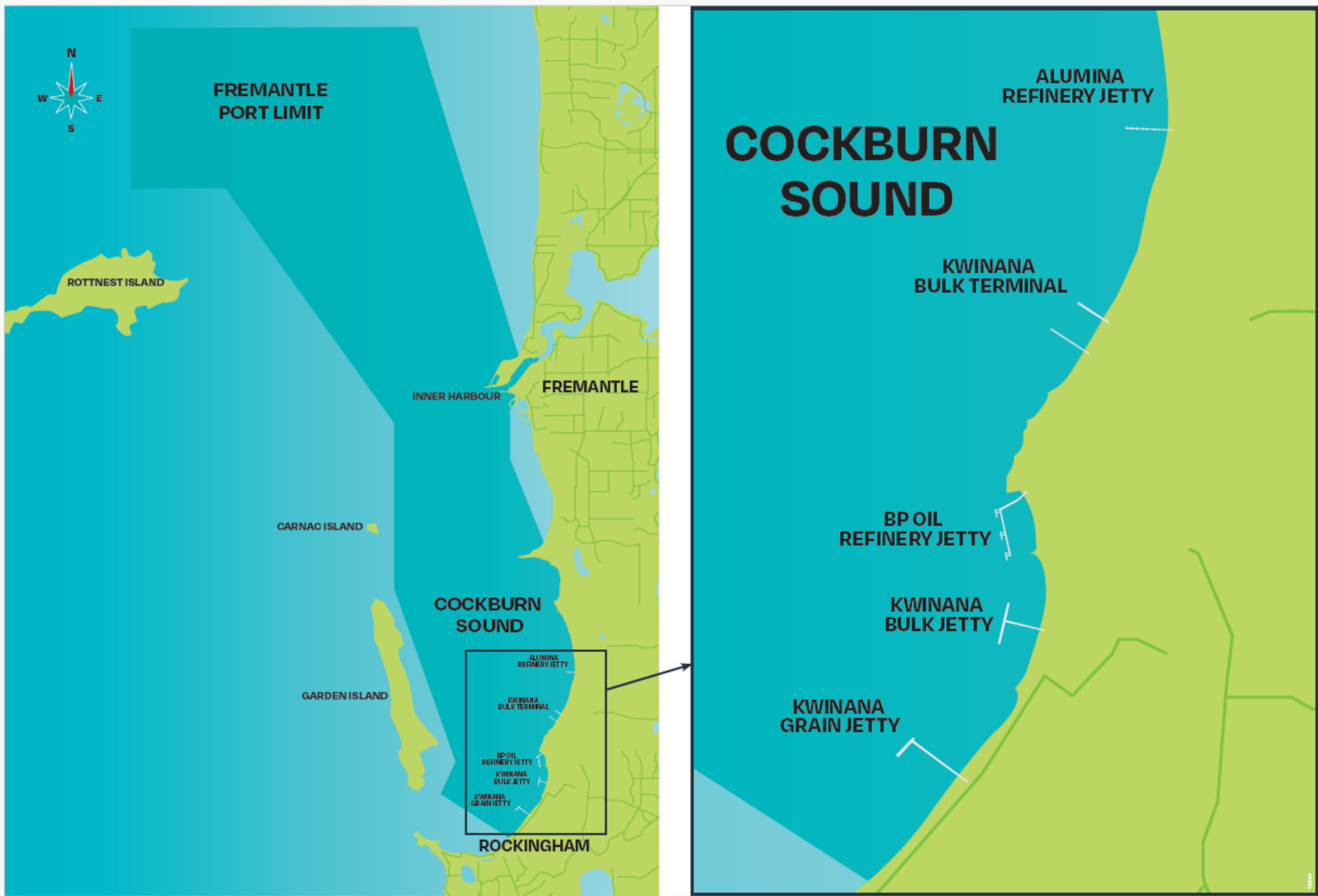
## One of the largest ports in Australia

- Handles most of the container trade, vehicles and critical commodities (fuel, building materials, fertiliser) for WA

## Statutory functions include to:

- Facilitate trade and plan for future growth and development of the port
- Be responsible for the safe and efficient operation of the port
- Protect the environment and minimise the impact of port operations on that environment





**FREMANTLE  
PORT LIMIT**

ROTTNEEST ISLAND

CARNAC ISLAND

GARDEN ISLAND

INNER HARBOUR

FREMANTLE

COCKBURN  
SOUND

ALUMINA  
REFINERY JETTY  
KWINANA  
BULK TERMINAL  
BP OIL  
REFINERY JETTY  
KWINANA  
BULK JETTY  
KWINANA  
GRAIN JETTY

ROCKINGHAM

**COCKBURN  
SOUND**

ALUMINA  
REFINERY JETTY

KWINANA  
BULK TERMINAL

BP OIL  
REFINERY JETTY

KWINANA  
BULK JETTY

KWINANA  
GRAIN JETTY

# Kwinana Bulk Jetty



# Kwinana Bulk Jetty - sulphur unloading

- Australia's first and longest running Siwertell - operational since 2001
- Can unload cargo at 1200T per hour
- In-built fire suppression
- Site activity licence regulated by Department of Water and Environmental Regulation













# Summary of main environmental benefits

## **Near-zero dust emissions**

- Siwertell systems are fully enclosed from ship hold to shore conveyor. This prevents dust escaping into the air during unloading. Eliminates the need for water sprays, large dust suppression systems and dust monitoring networks.

## **No spillage into water or ground**

- Material is conveyed in sealed pipes, not dropped through the air. There is no 'free fall' transfer points. Prevents cargo entering the harbour or contaminating soil, avoiding marine contamination and costly berth clean-ups

## **Lower energy consumption/ greenhouse gas emissions**

- Uses a continuous screw mechanism instead of lifting and dropping loads repeatedly which results in typically 30-50% lower energy use than grab unloaders - much more efficient per tonne handled.

## Why this matters

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Protects air and marine quality around ports

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Reduces community complaints and extends social licence to operate

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Facilitates environmental approvals and less onerous licence conditions

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Improves worker health and safety

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Help achieve sustainability goals and emission reduction targets

# Siwertell systems in operation in Australia

## Unloaders:

- Kwinana Western Australia (sulphur)
- Adelaide, South Australia (cement)
- Mobile Siwertell unloaders – multi-port use

## Loaders:

- Newcastle, New South Wales (grain)
- Whyalla, South Australia (iron ore)
- Adelaide, South Australia (cement/clinker)

# Considerations

## High capital cost

- Siwertell systems are significantly more expensive (2-3 times more than grab crane systems)
- Require purpose-built structure, enclosed conveyors and dust control systems

## Limited cargo flexibility

- Can struggle with large lump materials, sticky or highly cohesive cargo, or very abrasive bulk cargo
- Generally, not as suitable for multi-cargo ports handling varied commodities

## Increased maintenance requirements

- More mechanically complex and require specialised maintenance compared with grab cranes which are simpler and easier to repair locally





# Thank you

Questions?

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