



## Pilbara News

### Research backs use of 457 visas by mine industry

A RESEARCH project by Edith Cowan University, released last week, has backed usage of 457 visas in the national resources industry.

The report claimed temporary overseas workers played a small but important role in ensuring projects are built on time and on budget, which

leads to increased longer-term employment opportunities for Australians and greater investment security.

Resource industry employer group Australian Mines and Metals Association has called for wider acknowledgement of issues faced by fledgling resources projects when debat-

ing enterprise migration agreements, 457 visa schemes and temporary skilled migration.

AMMA executive director Minna Knight said statistics showed the overwhelming majority of new positions in mining were filled by Australians.

The study, titled "457 visa workers in Western Australian resources industry", looked at the cost and benefits of employing workers on 457 business visas as one mechanism to address skilled labour shortages, particularly in Western Australia.