

# Jetty opens for next generation of fishers

CLARE ALCOCK

YOUNG Wyndham residents last week celebrated the rebuilding of the historical jetty known as Anton's Landing.

About 30 residents of the northern port town held an impromptu gathering to mark the opening of the former port jetty last Thursday afternoon.

Wyndham resident Tayler Cavanagh said she had been waiting years for it to be built.

"We are really happy with it, we think it is awesome," she said.

As the teenagers discussed their love of fishing, infamous saltwater crocodile "Sammy" appeared under the new jetty.

They said they felt much safer while fishing from the new structure than Wyndham's floating pontoon.

Anton's Landing will be officially opened by the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley pending the availability of a Federal minister.



Tayler Cavanagh, Ayesha and Rudee Yates.

Picture: Clare Alcock

# Leaders prepare for legal battle over mining tax

SHANE WRIGHT, ANDREW PROBYN and PETER KLINGER

THE mining industry and Federal Government face years of court battles over the minerals resource rent tax.

After the Federal Government secured passage of the MRRT through the House of Representatives last month, industry players are preparing for a legal assault on the tax.

They say a constitutional challenge, likely to be financed by Fortescue Metals Group boss Andrew Forrest, will be just one element to the legal turmoil.

Companies are also expected to face long and costly battles with the Australian Taxation Office as they seek clarity on the tax.

The petroleum resource rent tax, introduced almost two decades ago, has been in the courts for 10 years and is still the source of a legal challenge from one company.

Fortescue chief financial officer Stephen Pearce signalled the compa-

ny would take up the constitutional challenge to the MRRT.

"Fortescue believes the MRRT has also fundamentally sought to erode States' rights under the Constitution, the core and foundation of the Commonwealth," he said.

The MRRT passed the House after a midnight deal between the Government and Greens to offset the cost of lifting the threshold at which the tax starts. Despite supporting it in the House, the Greens said they reserved the right to amend the MRRT in the Senate.

But Prime Minister Julia Gillard said she had no doubt the tax would pass into law, probably in February.

Opposition Leader Tony Abbott sought to censure Ms Gillard in Parliament for her "dirty deal in the dead of night" with the Greens but failed 73 votes to 70.

Atlas Iron managing director David Flanagan, who has led the chorus of opposition among WA's emerging iron ore players to the tax, lambasted it as a short-term fix not in Australia's best interest.

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