

## IRON ORE

**New agreement to decarbonise WA iron-ore exports.** ASX-listed NH3 Clean Energy has signed a joint development agreement (JDA) with Pilbara Ports Authority and Oceania Marine Energy to develop a low-emissions ammonia bunkering operation at the Port of Dampier, in a bid to decarbonise iron-ore shipping from Western Australia to Asia. The initiative targets the iron-ore export fleet, with NH3 estimating that just 16 ammonia-fuelled bulk carriers bunkering at Dampier could consume about 600 000 t/y of clean ammonia – equivalent to more than 90% of its planned WAH2 project's initial output. Pilbara Ports, which handled more than 750-million tonnes of bulk exports in 2023/24, is the world's biggest bulk export port authority. The region's iron-ore miners rely on the corridor to ship hundreds of millions of tonnes every year. The JDA outlines a joint pathway to commission a ship-to-ship ammonia bunkering service from Dampier's Bulk Liquids Berth by 2030. NH3 will act as ammonia supplier, Pilbara Ports will oversee port licensing and safety, and Oceania will own and operate the bunker vessels. Ammonia-fuelled shipping is gaining momentum following the International Maritime Organisation's new Net Zero Framework, which introduces emissions limits and pricing for vessels over 5 000 gross tonnes from 2027. There are 29 ammonia-capable bulk carriers already on order globally, with deliveries expected before 2030. (Mining Weekly)

## COAL

**China's coal imports slowed down markedly last month amid ample domestic supply, low prices, and rising generation from wind and solar.** At 36.04 million tons, May coal imports were down from 43.82 million tons in April, customs data cited by Reuters showed. This is the third consecutive monthly decline in coal imports in the world's largest importer of the commodity. For the first five months of 2025, coal imports declined by 8% from a year earlier, to a cumulative 188.7 million tons, compared with 204.9 million tons for January-May 2024 amid a price rout that saw coal sink to the lowest in four years. Over the first four months of 2025, China produced 1.58 billion tons of coal, which was 6.6% higher than the output booked for the same period a year earlier. In April alone, China produced 3.8% more coal than a year ago, at 389.31 million tons. This was down from a month earlier when production hit a record, but still strong enough to cement coal's role in the country's energy mix. Meanwhile, thermal power generation declined over the first four months of the year, by 4%, according to Reuters, while wind and solar generation increased, covering a 3% increase in electricity demand. (Oilpro)

**Africa's most industrialised nation is one of the largest polluters in the world and generates about 80 percent of its electricity through coal.** This makes it "uniquely vulnerable" as companies decarbonise their supply chains and countries penalise carbon-intensive imports, according to the group, a collaboration of four non-profit organisations that tracks net zero pledges. "78 percent of South Africa's exports, worth \$135 billion, are traded with 139 jurisdictions which have net zero targets in place. Collectively, these exports support over 1.2 million domestic jobs," the report said. If the country fails to decarbonise its supply chains, it could lose some of that trade and related jobs, it said. (<https://www.france24.com/>)

## GRAIN

**Russia is seeking to create an alternative agricultural platform within the BRICS to bypass Western sanctions. However, China and India are not supporting the idea, according to Ukraine's Foreign Intelligence Service.** According to Ukrainian intelligence, Moscow plans to initiate formal consultations on the creation of a grain exchange within the BRICS during the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, scheduled for June 18–21. Russia sees this initiative as a way to expand its influence over countries in the Global South. The proposed grain exchange is intended as a stepping stone toward a broader commodity platform for oil, metals, and gas. Russian authorities have suggested that the new platform within the BRICS would establish an "independent" grain price mechanism, minimize the influence of Western traders and the US dollar. Russia also proposes switching to settlements in national currencies. (World Grain)

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