

Aquila looking to use Rio Tinto line for West Pilbara project

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PERTH (miningweekly.com) – Diversified junior Aquila Resources could defer some of its capital expenditure on the West Pilbara iron-ore project, if the newly declared Robe River rail was available until 2018.

The Australian Competition Tribunal this week ruled that mining giant Rio Tinto's Robe River railway line should be made available to third-party users.

Aquila's executive chairperson **Tony Poli** said on Friday that the company would be able to save on rail capital expenditure if the Robe River line was still available by 2018, and if the terms of an arrangement for access to the rail could be agreed upon with Rio Tinto.

However, Poli noted that the Tribunal's decision could still be subject to an appeal.

"The company will monitor the situation and its implications for the West Pilbara iron-ore project," he added.

Aquila was looking to develop the West Pilbara iron-ore project to a 25-million-ton-a-year mining and export project, at a capital cost of around A\$4-billion.

The results from a definitive feasibility study for the West Pilbara project would be published during the current quarter.

The project, which would require a dedicated 280-km rail link from the mine to Anketell point, as well as associated harbour facilities, had been granted major project facilitation status by the federal Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Minister.
