The operation of the Port of Saldanha is dominated by the Iron Ore Terminal. The Port operates 24 hours per day, 7 days a week and for 365 days of the year. Currently the terminal is operated by Transnet Port Terminals (TPT).

Operations include the following:

Tippler – There are currently two tipplers which serve to tip two rail wagons at a time to off-load the iron ore into a bunker from where it is conveyed to the stockyard.

Ore Stockyard – At the stockyard iron ore is stored in stockpiles. These are divided into various grades of ore and provide a buffer between rail off-loading and ship loading.

Berth and Ship Loading – Two ship-loaders at the two existing berths load the iron ore onto the ships.

Conveyors – A network of conveyors transport iron ore from the tipplers to the stockyard and from the stockyards to the ship-loaders at the berths.

Seawater Desalination – A reverse osmosis facility desalinates sea-water to produce freshwater that is used to spray down the iron ore for dust control.

Roads – There are a number of paved service roads throughout that provide easy access.

Administration and Services – Includes administration buildings and staff facilities.

In addition to the Iron Ore Terminal port operations include the following:

- Multipurpose quay for breakbulk cargo
- Oil tanker quay
- Port control/ vessel traffic services centre
- Navigation and docking
- Pilotage and tugboats
- Yachting marina

**Figure 5: Existing Iron Ore Terminal (Photo Source: www.moneyweb.co.za)**