

NEWS RELEASE

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Training opportunities abound at Worsley

More than 50 apprentices have been employed with about a dozen construction contractors working on the A\$2.5 billion BHP Billiton Worsley Alumina Expansion Project.

The apprenticeship program includes opportunities for indigenous and female workers to gain trade skills as part of focus on diversity in the construction workforce.

It was an opportunity Lloyd Winmar was keen to grab following his experience as a trades' assistant with expansion structural, piping and mechanical contractor, John Holland Group.

Emily Robertson recently started her training in metal trades, also with John Holland Group, making her the fourth female apprentice engaged on the Worsley expansion.

Emily said she was excited to secure an apprenticeship after years of applying at numerous worksites and was looking forward to becoming a qualified tradesperson.

Contractors have taken on apprentices in trades including electrical, metal fabrication, carpentry, automotive and hospitality. Most of the apprenticeships are based at the Worsley refinery, near Collie.

John Holland Group has employed eight apprentices.

"We are committed to providing opportunities for as many apprentices as we have skilled tradespeople and we will be employing a significant number of apprentices on the Worsley expansion," John Holland Group project manager Ian Gill said.

Worsley human resources manager Toni Oliva said the training and up skilling of so many workers would ensure the expansion project left a lasting legacy for individuals, the region and industry in general.

He said the apprenticeship target for the overall expansion had been reached just half way through the project.

The opportunities presented by the expansion project are in addition to Worsley's existing apprenticeship program, under which 48 apprentices are employed at its refinery and mining operations. Another 10 are expected to be recruited before the end of the year.

The expansion project will take Worsley's annual alumina production capacity from 3.5 to 4.6 million tonnes per annum and make it one of the biggest refineries in the world.

The project is scheduled to be completed toward the end of 2011.

Caption: Emily Robertson and Lloyd Winmar, apprentices on Worsley's expansion project, see a bright future ahead.

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