



NEWS RELEASE

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Work starts on new power station

Work is under way on a \$500 million multi-fuel cogeneration power plant being built at Worsley Alumina's refinery, near Collie.

The power plant, which will be owned by Griffin Energy, is a key part of Worsley's Efficiency and Growth Expansion Project. The combined budget for the Worsley E&G Expansion and the Griffin cogeneration plant is around \$A3 billion.

Griffin has contracted Austrian Energy and Environment to build the new power plant which will be operated and maintained by Worsley.

Earthworks have begun for the two multi-fuel units that will make up the cogeneration plant. The first unit is scheduled for testing and handover in early 2011 and the second around mid 2011.

The two units will have the capacity to produce a total of 550 tonnes of steam an hour and 106MW of power. The steam is vital to the alumina refining process. Power additional to Worsley's needs will be able to be exported to the State electricity grid.

The multi-fuel cogeneration units will primarily burn coal, however, they will also be able to burn up to 30 per cent biomass (waste wood).

The units will employ best practice emission control techniques including the use of a bag-house for dust control and limestone injection for sulphur dioxide control.

Worsley Alumina general manager Julius Matthys said the multi-fuel nature of the units and the use of modern technology would ensure a highly-efficient and low-emission power plant.

The E&G Expansion Project, which was approved last May, will lift Worsley's annual alumina production capacity from 3.5 million to 4.6 million tonnes.

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About 4000 construction jobs are expected to be created at Worsley's refinery, near Collie, and mining operations, near Boddington, over the 31-month life of the expansion project.

The construction workforce is expected to peak around 1700 toward the end of 2009. An additional peak workforce of about 300 is expected to be employed on the power plant project by early 2010.

Worsley Alumina is Joint Venture between BHP Billiton (86 per cent), Japan Alumina Associates (10 per cent) and Sojitz Alumina (4 per cent).

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