

NEWS RELEASE

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Major milestones have been reached on the BHP Billiton Worsley Alumina expansion 12 months into the A\$2.5 billion project.

More than one million man hours have been worked at the Worsley refinery, west of Collie, and the nearby Mornington Accommodation Village, and more than a \$1 billion in contracts have been let.

The last single persons' quarters in the current phase of development has been lifted into place at the village, where there are now more than 500 buildings and up to 1350 beds for construction workers.

Engineering for the expansion project is about 70 per cent complete. More than 650 engineers located in eight different countries are working on the engineering design and plans for the project.

Construction is under way in earnest at the refinery with more than 600 workers from more than a dozen contractors engaged.

Earthworks are also progressing on a new mining area and associated infrastructure, near Boddington.

BHP Billiton Worsley Alumina Expansion Project director Warren McKenzie praised the workforce for its efforts to date and said the focus must remain on safely completing the massive task at hand.

The expansion project - approved by joint venture partners BHP Billiton (86%), Japan Alumina Associates (Australia) (10%) and Sojitz Alumina (14%) in May last year - will lift Worsley's alumina output from a design capacity of 3.5 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) to 4.6 mtpa.

Work has also started on a A\$500 million multi-fuel cogeneration plant Griffin Energy is building at the Worsley refinery to supply the extra power and steam needed for the upgraded production capacity. The first structural steel for the plant was erected in April.

One of the biggest work fronts at the refinery for the expansion project is the fabrication and installation of an additional 20 precipitation tanks. When completed, each tank will be around the same height as an 11-storey building.

The tanks are being preassembled in one area of the refinery and moved into place piece by piece with a large Hitachi Sumitomo SCX6500 Lift Crane (featured in the attached photograph).

The largest lift the 650 tonne-crane will carry out on the Worsley expansion will be just short of 100 tonnes. This will represent the lower section of one of the new tanks.

Photo caption: The BHP Billiton Worsley Alumina Expansion Project's latest newcomer – the Hitachi Sumitomo SCX6500 Lift Crane – in action.

Photo caption: Foundations are being prepared for 20 new precipitation tanks being built at the Worsley refinery as part of the A\$2.5 billion expansion.

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