



MEDIA RELEASE

04 March 2005

Kogan Creek Power Project creates opportunities

The careers of three Chinchilla locals will get off to a powerful start this week in a community-based apprenticeship scheme developed by CS Energy and Downs Group Training.

Project Manager, John Harten said the program was originally designed to take two apprentices, but the quality of local candidates was such that they decided to create an extra position.

“Coincidentally, all the short listed applicants were Chinchilla locals, although we received applications from as far away as Kingaroy and Toowoomba.

“This apprenticeship program is unique in that CS Energy is paying the basic wages of the apprentices, enabling small businesses within the Chinchilla region to assist in the training of these first year apprentices at a very low cost to their company.

“We received applications from seven host businesses throughout the region, including several small businesses who did not believe they could financially support a full-time apprentice.

“Our aim is to add to the skills pool in the region, in a way that benefits local businesses as well.

The three new apprentices will be sponsored by CS Energy through Downs Group Training - two as Electrical Fitters and one as a Mechanical Fitter. The apprentices will be hosted by local businesses for the first twelve months of their apprenticeship and will spend some time during their second year at a CS Energy power station site at either Biloela or Ipswich, prior to working at the Kogan Creek Power station site during their third and fourth years.

Energy Minister, John Mickel, welcomed these extra training opportunities.

“This is an investment in the future of regional communities and the electricity industry.

“These young Queenslanders will learn skills which will set them up for life.

“Their skills will certainly be in demand with our growing population and economy spurring an increased demand for power and skilled workers right across Queensland,” Mr Mickel said.

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