



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**24 February 2015**

### **Callide powers through Tropical Cyclone Marcia**

CS Energy's Callide Power Station kept generating as Tropical Cyclone Marcia passed through the region on Friday.

Callide Power Station's General Manager, Phil Matha, said that the power station, which escaped any major damage from the high winds, rainfall and flooding, remained in operation thanks to good planning and preparation and a bunch of dedicated employees who bunkered down at the power station.

"The safety of our people was our chief concern and on Thursday afternoon, we made the call to enable the majority of our people to stay at home on Friday and continue to prepare for Marcia," Mr Matha said.

"Only essential staff, including operators, maintenance and coal handling crews and the Emergency Response Team were on site from Thursday evening until Monday morning.

Mr Matha said road access to the power station was cut overnight on Friday and a helicopter was used to transport employees in and out for the shift changeover on Saturday morning. The heavy rainfall saw the Callide Ash Dam level increase by 0.83 metre but the water remains almost 1.5 metres below the spillway.

"We undertake a range of summer preparedness activities each year to make sure we are ready for extreme weather events such as cyclones, high rainfall and floods," he said.

"The team was on high alert last week and we made sure we got in and started to get everything into place, including coal and fuel supplies, as soon as we knew that a cyclone was forming off the coastline.

"There was a real sense of teamwork, with everyone working well together. We got through the experience in good spirits and with good humour," Mr Matha said.

While the majority of CS Energy's employees live in Biloela and the surrounding area, some employees live in Yeppoon, Rockhampton and Gladstone.

"We have at least ten employees whose homes have been impacted by the cyclone and flooding in the local area," Mr Matha said.

"We're providing emergency accommodation for one of our employees and their family after their home was flooded."

Mr Matha said the company would assist employees impacted by the cyclone and flooding where it could and, following consultation with Council, pitch in with the community recovery effort.

**Ends**

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