

31 January, 2007

## **COUNCIL CONGRATULATES CS ENERGY ON ITS WATER SAVING COMMITMENT**

IPSWICH City Council today congratulated CS Energy's Swanbank Power Station on being the first major business in the Ipswich region to submit a Water Efficiency Management Plan (WEMP) to Ipswich Water.

Business Units and Library Services Committee Chairperson Councillor David Pahlke said council was pleased to receive CS Energy's WEMP ahead of approaching deadlines.

Cr Pahlke said the lowering of pressures would help to reduce losses from leaks and reduce the number of main breaks and deliver lower pumping costs.

The WEMPs must be submitted by non-residential water users based on criteria outlined in Level 4 water restrictions which were introduced to South-East Queensland last November.

"This demonstrates that CS Energy is working with the community to reduce its water use and is being a good corporate citizen," he said.

"As part of the process, water users need to account for the water they use, identify water saving measures and prepare a plan to implement the identified measures.

"The WEMPs are based on either a business' water use or their level of consumption."

Cr Pahlke said in Ipswich, it was estimated that a total of 600 WEMPs would need to be prepared and submitted to Ipswich Water for approval.

He said a number of different deadlines applied for the submission of WEMPs depending on the size and water usage of the business.

"Businesses using 20 million litres or more of town water per annum must prepare a WEMP and submit it to their local council by April 30, 2007.

"Any businesses using between 10 and 20 million litres per annum must prepare a WEMP and submit it to their local council by July 31, 2007.

"Businesses with a cooling tower for air conditioning must also submit a WEMP to their local council or show significant water savings by April 30, 2007."

CS Energy developed its WEMP with assistance from international firm Maunsell, a leading engineering company specialising in environmental solutions.

The WEMP outlines how Swanbank Power Station will reduce its town water use by 25 per cent by April this year, as part of Level 4 water restrictions.

Swanbank Power Station site manager John James said a number of water efficiency improvements had been carried out at the station in recent months, such as replacing plant equipment with more water efficient technology.

“We’ve already achieved considerable water savings on site and more improvements are planned,” Mr James said.

“We’re also working to reducing the amount of raw water we use by increasing the number of times we recycle it through the station.

“In the current drought, every drop counts, so we’ll continue to look for new ways to save water.”

Cr Pahlke said Ipswich City Council wanted to encourage businesses to be aware of their regulatory obligations and the need to lodge their WEMPs on time.

“We are particularly concerned that there has been a poor level of response and little understanding of WEMP requirements under the act for smaller to medium size industries who are required to have their plans submitted by July 31, 2007.

“In the coming months Ipswich Water will continue working with Ipswich’s commercial and industrial sectors to encourage them to be aware of their obligations to ensure they comply with Level 4 water restrictions and especially the required preparation of WEMPs.”

Cr Pahlke said Ipswich’s commercial and industrial users needed to understand that improved water efficiency was good business.

“We want them to realise that water is a valued resource and they need to look at ways to maximise water savings within their businesses.

“Everything they do, no matter how large or small, can contribute to Ipswich’s and South-East Queensland water saving efforts.”

The Queensland Government has allocated \$40 million to help businesses implement water saving measures through Business Water Efficiency Program (BWEP) which is an incentive scheme that provides financial and technical support to help businesses to save water.

The program is regionally based and managed, locally by Ipswich Water and co-ordinated regionally by SEQWater.

Cr Pahlke said the BWEP had been established to help South East Queensland businesses save water by adopting sustainable water use practices.

“Council encourages business to take up this opportunity to apply for funding support to become more water efficient.”

Businesses can obtain further information to assist them with the preparation of their WEMP by visiting the Ipswich Water website at [www.ipswichwater.com.au/](http://www.ipswichwater.com.au/)

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