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Overhaul keeps Wivenhoe Power Station in top shape

A \$5.2 million overhaul at CS Energy's hydroelectric Wivenhoe Power Station near Brisbane wrapped up recently, ensuring the power station continues to generate electricity safely and reliably for Queenslanders.

CS Energy Chief Executive Officer Martin Moore said the Wivenhoe works were one of four overhauls planned for CS Energy's power stations this financial year, adding up to a \$71.4 million investment in these important assets.

Mr Moore said each overhaul provided an economic boost to accommodation and other businesses in communities surrounding CS Energy's power stations.

"CS Energy's site workforces increase significantly during an overhaul as short-term contractors are required to help carry out the maintenance and upgrades of the power station equipment," Mr Moore said.

"Wivenhoe Power Station's workforce grew more than five-fold during this overhaul – up from a permanent workforce of 14 people to a peak of more than 90 people when you include the 80 contractors on site."

Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems was the major contractor for the two-month overhaul, with additional contractors carrying out specialised work including ABB, Schneider, ViPac, Berg Engineering and Crown Engineering.

Mr Moore said Wivenhoe Power Station has a 30 year history of providing quick-start capacity to the national electricity grid.

"Wivenhoe Power Station works like a giant rechargeable battery, drawing power from the grid to pump water from Wivenhoe Dam up to Splityard Creek Dam," Mr Moore said. "The water is then released from Splityard Creek Dam down through tunnels to the power station's turbines, driving the generators to produce electricity."

Wivenhoe Power Station is the only pumped storage hydroelectric plant in Queensland. The 500 megawatt plant is located on the eastern side of Wivenhoe Dam, about 90 kilometres north-west of Brisbane.

CS Energy's overhaul program for 2015/16 includes two overhauls at Callide Power Station near Biloela (July 2015 and October 2015), the Wivenhoe overhaul and a major overhaul of Kogan Creek Power Station in April 2016.

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Media enquiries

CS Energy Media Line

07 3854 7399

About CS Energy

CS Energy is a Queensland energy company that has more than 400 employees, operates three power stations and has a trading portfolio of 4,035 megawatts.

CS Energy operates the 1,510 megawatt Callide Power Station near Biloela in Central Queensland, the 750 megawatt coal-fired Kogan Creek Power Station and Kogan Creek Mine, near Chinchilla in South West Queensland, as well as the 500 megawatt pumped storage hydroelectric Wivenhoe Power Station, near Esk in South East Queensland. The company is also party to the Interconnection and Power Pooling Agreement that entitles the company to trade the output of the Gladstone Power Station in excess of the requirements of the Boyne Aluminium Smelter.