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Upgrade to rural fire brigade's headquarters opens

A dedicated band of volunteer fire fighters is better equipped to prevent and fight fires in the Western Downs following the opening of an extension to the Kogan and District Rural Fire Brigade's headquarters today.

The upgraded facility includes a training and meeting room, kitchen, office and radio room and also provides a community space for fire awareness training.

Chinchilla Community Benefits Trust funding provided by CS Energy and the Western Downs Regional Council contributed to the extension, along with funding from the Queensland Rural Fire Service, the Queensland Government and money raised by the fire brigade.

Kogan Creek Power Station General Manager Phil Matha attended the opening, which coincided with celebrations for the brigade's 50th anniversary.

"The tireless work of the Kogan and District Rural Fire Brigade helps protect the community, and prevent and fight fires," Mr Matha said.

"Congratulations on your 50th anniversary and the completion of this much needed extension to your headquarters."

Brigade Secretary, Treasurer and long term fire fighting volunteer Vicki Searle said the improved facilities would make a huge difference to the fire fighters and the community.

"The extension will enable us to provide better training for our volunteers and hold community fire awareness at the station instead of at other locations," Ms Searle said. "We can now also prepare food for fire fighters and fire-affected residents on site, instead of at private homes.

"We would like to thank the various organisations who supported this vital extension, which will provide benefits for many years to come."

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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, near Chinchilla in South West Queensland and the 500 megawatt pumped storage hydroelectric Wivenhoe Power Station, near Esk in South East Queensland. CS Energy's coal resources include the Kogan Creek Mine.

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.