



Media Release

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TARONG BREAKS SAFETY RECORD WHILE BOOSTING LOCAL ECONOMY

The largest generator overhaul in Tarong Power Station's 25-year history has broken all safety records.

During the eight week overhaul, more than 600 contractors joined TE employees to carry out more than 180,000 hours of work without recording a single lost time injury.

Additionally, the \$35 million generator overhaul of Unit 2 injected millions into the local economy while completing the maintenance and installation of five critical projects simultaneously.

Tarong Energy Chief Executive Officer Helen Gluer said the landmark shutdown delivered a major boost to the local economy with a safety record that was a testament to the professionalism of our people and contractors.

"During the shutdown of Unit 2 a record number of man-hours were worked with not a single lost time injury.

"Since our 2005 Overhaul of Unit 2, we have consistently improved safety to a point where this shutdown produced a 90% reduction in incidents requiring minor treatment.

"Results like this are a great reward for our ongoing efforts to ensure the safety of all employees, contractors and site visitors.

"This is a great outcome as well as a major boost for the local economy, generating spending, particularly in accommodation, food and travel expenses.

"Furthermore, Tarong Energy's Local Industry Participation Plan ensured that wherever possible, competitive local industry was able to benefit from this major capital expenditure," Ms Gluer said.

A director of the local electrical contracting firm Breaker Electrical, Brenton McLennan said winning work with a major company like Tarong Energy was a welcome boost to his business in the current economic climate.

"It is good to see one of our major corporate citizens in the region is committed to supporting local industry," Mr McLennan said.

As part of the Unit 2 shutdown, Tarong Energy installed 30 low NOx (Nitrogen Oxide) burners, setting it apart as an industry leader.

The current installation means 60 low NOx burners are now installed at two of Tarong Power Station's units, the only coal-fired power station in Australia to use this type of emission-reducing burners.

The use of low NOx burners reduces the power station's nitrogen oxide emissions which contribute to air pollution and smog.

"Since the installation of low NOx burners in Unit 1 in August 2008 we have experienced a 50% reduction in NOx emissions and expect further reductions following the second stage of tuning," Ms Gluer said.

"As we progressively install low NOx burners across all four units, emissions will continue to decrease.

"Australian power stations are not required to fit emissions reducing burners and the installation of a further 30 low NOx burners demonstrates Tarong Energy's continued commitment to reducing the impact we have on the environment."

During the shutdown, Tarong Energy also installed a more modern and technologically advanced control system to increase the operability and efficiency of the power station.

"The new control system will make the plant easier to operate, enabling the burning of less fuel while generating electricity with improved process stability," Ms Gluer said.

"Unit 2 is the second unit at Tarong Power Station to receive the brand new control system."

As part of ongoing maintenance, Tarong Energy is overhauling all four generating units at the power station, with the Unit 1 shutdown completed successfully in January 2009.

Units 3 and 4 are due for major overhauls over the next couple of years where they will also be fitted with low NOx burners and a control systems refit.

ENDS

Background

Tarong Energy is one of Queensland's most significant power generators, with the capacity to deliver up to 25 per cent of the State's power needs.

Established in July 1997 and owned by the Queensland Government, Tarong Energy is the owner and operator of Tarong Power Station (coal fired), Tarong North Power Station (coal-fired) and Wivenhoe Power Station. The Corporation also owns Meandu Mine which supplies up to seven million tonnes of coal a year to the adjacent Tarong power stations.

The Corporation is an active competitor in the National Electricity Market (NEM). The Corporation sells electricity into the NEM spot market pool and provides ancillary services to the National Electricity Market Management Company (NEMMCO) through Tarong and Wivenhoe Power Stations to ensure the secure and reliable supply of electricity throughout Queensland.

Tarong Energy employs more than 400 people at its generating sites at Nanango and Wivenhoe Dam and in its Brisbane office.