



## Media Release

16 February 2010

### Control room opening marks project milestone

Tarong Power Station's new control room was officially opened today by Parliamentary Secretary for Natural Resources, Mines & Energy and Trade, Michael Choi.

Effectively the nerve centre of the station, the room has been purpose-built as part of a \$50 million upgrade of the control systems on all four of the station's generating units.

Tarong Energy CEO Helen Gluer said that although plant operations have been consistently excellent since operations commenced in 1984, the original control system was now technically obsolete and more difficult and costly to maintain.

"Over its 25 years of operating, Tarong Power Station has built a well-deserved reputation for reliability and this new, modern technology will ensure that reputation is maintained," Ms Gluer said.

"In the past few years we have secured long-term fuel and water supplies to ensure that we can continue generating electricity in the South Burnett for many years to come and capital investments such as this complement and enhance this security."

Mr Choi said that the project was an example of the Queensland Government's commitment to upgrading critical state infrastructure.

"It's a significant investment in our electricity network that will help underpin the needs of our growing state," Mr Choi said.

"The flow-on effects of these investments are also significant, with millions of dollars injected into the South Burnett during an extended shutdown in 2009 to incorporate the control system refit on Unit 2."

Two of the four units have already been converted, with the remaining units to undertake refits during scheduled maintenance shutdowns over the next year.

**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 Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) 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.