

CONTACT

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Big opportunity to become a... Top Australian business

The decision to create a Latrobe Valley-based generation business is the opportunity of a life-time for the Latrobe Region, says Victoria's Energy Minister Jim Plowman.

"The new business will own all the brown coal and gas generating assets of the SEC which will place a significant business initiative squarely in the Latrobe Valley court," Mr Plowman said.

"We are looking here at the establishment of a potential "Top 50" Australian business with the capacity to make a dramatic impact on the national scene, while bringing immense benefit to all Victorians."

Mr Plowman was commenting on the restructure of the Victorian electricity industry, which includes the division of

the SEC into three separate businesses.

Under the new arrangements, the generating business will have its own independent board of commercially-oriented directors and its own management team, freed from previous corporate restraints and full accountable for achieving commercial goals.

Will have own Board

The new business will be directly accountable to the Victorian Energy Minister.

"For the first time, the management base for Victoria's power generation industry will be where the action is, and decisions will be taken by the people actually responsible for



• Mr Plowman

the industry's coal-winning and generation performance," said Mr Plowman.

"I can't imagine a better or more positive development for the Latrobe Valley region and I have no doubt it will dramatically improve the ability of Victorian power stations to compete

effectively in the emerging national electricity market."

Mr Plowman said the changes announced on 10 August were a first step in the process of splitting the integrated monopoly of the SEC with the aim of introducing effective competition where it was possible and desirable.

"Over time and as the new business comes to grips with more immediate issues, we will examine the advantages of creating a number of further independent generation businesses holding one or more power stations.

"Eventually, there could be corporatisation of individual power stations.

"Now that we have taken this first step to unbundle the SEC in our far-reaching reform pro

gram, we will be looking closely at appropriate initiatives to achieve a final industry structure over the next few years."

First step in process

Mr Plowman said he was confident of a positive response from the existing SEC Production group workforce, which he said had made a significant contribution to the overall reform process so far.

He said he believed both management and employees would welcome the opportunity to play such a direct role in industry changes which would place Victoria at the forefront of national electricity reform.

SEC Mayors say regional group is the way

SEC employees have been elected to two of the Latrobe Valley's top municipal posts.

Hazelwood Power Station Unit Controller Co-ordinator Peter Wells begins his third term as Mayor of Moe City and Visitor Services Manager Peter Leslie has been elected Traralgon City Mayor for the first time.

Peter Wells, who has served on Moe City Council for about 13 years, was previously Mayor in 1984-85 and 1989-90. He has worked with the SEC for 18 years.

He says his biggest challenge in the next 12 months will be to improve Moe's community spirit.

"I think the biggest challenge will be to unite the Moe community and to develop strategies to take us into the future," he said.

Peter said he did not think a combined Latrobe Valley council was an option for the area.

"Moe, Morwell and Traralgon are so diverse that I don't think you can unify them under one government."

However, he said that he supported the concept of a Regional Organisation of

Councils, made up of representatives from local municipalities.

Peter Leslie, a Traralgon City councillor since 1988, has been with the SEC for 27 years.

He said Traralgon City also supported the formation of a regional organisation.

"I believe if there is going to be a restructure of local government in this area, it needs to look beyond just Moe, Morwell and Traralgon.

"It is vital local municipalities are consulted and given the opportunity to be involved in any review process."

Peter Leslie said the single biggest issue facing Traralgon City was the future of the Latrobe Regional Hospital.

"We need to ensure that we have the best health services we can for the people of the Latrobe Valley," he said.

Note: SEC Occupational Health and Claims Services Manager John Guy has completed three consecutive 12-month terms as Morwell City Mayor, handing over to long-serving Morwell City councillor Jack Vinall.



SEC employees in top local government positions...Moe Mayor Peter Wells, left, and Traralgon Mayor Peter Leslie.

Company shows the safe way

Simon-Carves is helping set the pace in health and safety at Morwell Briquette and Power.

A group of formsetters and form grinders from Simon-Carves have recently completed 10,000 work hours at Morwell Briquette and Power without a Lost Time Injury.

The company is carrying out form preparation and form-setting work at the factory which is physically demanding and, according to Morwell Briquette and Power Manager Des Dalton, has resulted in many injuries in the past.

"The work involves the changing of moulds and stamps on the briquette presses, requiring employees to use a lot of heavy material components" said Des.

"The work has a history of causing a lot of hand and back injuries but the Simon-Carves team has been able to carry out this project without incident.



A toast to success. From left, Morwell Briquette and Power Manager Des Dalton, with Simon-Carves employees Alby Farrugia, Danny Gass, Adrian Bromage, Joe Loprese, David James, Bill Peter, Rob Smyth and Gordon Bland.

"Simon-Carves is working safely and efficiently and that means important savings for the briquette factory in its continu-

ing drive to become more competitive."

Morwell Briquette and Power hosted a lunch for the Simon-

Carves employees at the SEC Visitors' Centre and presented each with a glass mug to recognise the achievement.

Super Dick out in front in ash bridge battle

Clever Dick, Loy Yang A's prototype hydraulic powered ash breaker, has been injured in the line of duty, but will emerge from the ashes as a much-improved Super Dick.

Clever Dick has been in service since November 1992 and was successfully used to demolish eight ash bridges in Loy Yang A's boilers.

It was battling its ninth bridge last month when it collapsed and was extensively damaged after demolishing half of a unit two ash bridge.

Sent to Yallourn Workshop for a major rebuild and repairs, Clever Dick will be back into action as a back-up unit to its much-improved successor.

So Siu Hoi from Production Technology said Clever Dick was "a bit agricultural" because it was initially only to be a testing device to demonstrate the concept of breaking the ash bridge from beneath.

"During the past months, we have learned a lot about the art of ash bridge breaking, and — based on the experience of Clever Dick — a new gener-

ation device has been designed and built with improved engineering," said So.

The new creation is called Super Dick. According to So, it is structurally stronger than its predecessor.

As with Clever Dick, Super Dick was designed by Turbine and General Plant, Production Technology.

The design team, led by So, included Jeff Ashcroft and John Claxton, with extensive input from Loy Yang A's Nick Demetrios.

So said Yallourn Mechanical Workshops' Bruce Dixon and Colin Cheesman advised in the fabrication aspects during the design stage and later constructed the device.

Demolishing ash bridges by probing mechanically from beneath remained a last resort since huge forces are transmitted to the bottom hopper structure during the process and huge falling ash slabs can damage the structures.

"The effort of developing better devices and methods to battle ash bridges never stops," said So.

Budding workers



Yallourn North Primary School students Alister Budge, Ashley Cook, Ian Ormond and Joseph Oillataguerre and their classmates recently helped SEC Land Services plant more than 150 trees on SEC land bordering Yallourn North township.

SEC Property Management Officer Paul Devlin said the native trees would improve the visual landscape of the land and provide a screen between the township and the old Yallourn Open Cut.

Paul said the project was part of the SEC's greenhouse treeplanting program which has seen more than one million trees planted in the Latrobe Valley over the past two years.

"We appreciate the assistance given by the children and hope that, as the trees grow, they will look at them and feel proud of the part they played in making the area look better," said Paul.

Service Register

AUGUST 1993

► 10 YEARS

Haydn John
Eric Barber
John Griffiths
Allan Ballantine
Peter Rowland
Wayne Sauer
Arnold Somers
Garry White

► 15 YEARS

Mark Smith
Ian Charles
Kevin McNulty
Jim Straatman
Gordon Johnson
Brian McWalters

► 20 YEARS

Kosta Marinou
Gerardus Rosenboom
Dominic Schiafone

► 25 YEARS

Peter Smith
David Battersby
Rocc Diamente
Ronald Guy
Peter Pawluck
Austin Burge

► 35 YEARS

Alexander Jones

The Production Group Service Register has been expanded. It will now recognise employees who have completed 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and over 35 years service.

If your name has not appeared, ask your administration officer to check your service record.

OB Group fixes sinking feeling

The Loy Yang Overburden Group has dug deep into its own resources to fix a sticky problem.

It's winter time and that usually means mud and troubles for Loy Yang Mine's overburden stackers.

The TS4 and TS5 stackers, operate on crawlers and during the wet winter months the 2000 tonne machines tend to sink, causing obvious operational problems and occasional damage to plant.

Over the last few years "winter formations" — large ramps — have been constructed to save the stackers from the clutches of mud and slush.

Earlier this year, the Loy Yang mobile plant group — using 50 tonne trucks, dozers, compactors and about 20,000 tonnes of clay — built a winter formation for TS4 at a cost of \$140,000.

Loy Yang Mine decided to repeat the project this month for TS5, but this time using a different method and utilising its own resources.

Instead of trucking high quality clay to the site, 40,000 cubic metres of "run-of-the-mine" overburden was transported to the area via the overburden system. It was then spread and

compacted by the OB Group's own shift operators.

The project, being hailed as a major achievement, has resulted in significant savings.

Operations Supervisor Ray Stewart says Operations employees broke a lot of new ground on the project and the result is the best winter formation he has seen at the mine.

A number of firsts were achieved during the construction of the 500 metre by 32 metre "air strip". Operations employees operated a variety of mobile plant for the first time, supervisors worked alongside other employees and both TS4 and TS5 were operated at the same time.

"In the past we've been able to do some of the work and then auxiliaries would come in and complete the job," said Ray.

"For the first time the shift blokes have been given an opportunity to see it through to the finish. It's been great to see the way the guys have responded.

"Everyone's been very enthusiastic about it. One guy even cancelled leave to work on it and others have worked back a couple of hours while we were getting good material."



Everyone keen to see it succeed... Loy Yang Mine operators, from left, Greg Lonsdale, Rick Watson, Allan David, Noel Wilson and supervisor Ray Stewart.

Ray said there was a lot of interest in the project and everyone was keen to see that it was a success.

"The Dredger 16 crew have

also been doing their bit to work in with the stacker crew. I'm a supervisor and I even pulled on the overalls to drive plant with the rest of the crew — and

enjoyed it too," said Ray.

Ray said the plan was devised by fellow supervisor Greg Smith and Ray took over when Greg went on long service leave.

H'wood looks at literacy, numeracy

Hazelwood Power Station is extending its involvement in efforts to meet the literacy and numeracy needs of its workforce.

Following a successful literacy class designed to better equip its employees for work and their involvement in the community, the station has now launched a study into literacy and numeracy needs of its Operations employees.

Traralgon Secondary College teacher Shirley Musgrove has been seconded to conduct the study under the Teacher Release to Industry Program (see box, right)

Hazelwood Power Station Manager John Herbert said the study would focus on Operations because this group would play an important part in the station's future.

"A suitably trained and competent Operations workforce is one of the ingredients necessary to help Hazelwood's bid for survival in a competitive power industry.

"Improved understanding of instructions and procedures will go a long way toward maintaining an efficient and safe power station."

John said the study would

provide an overview of the current skills of the Operations group.

"We will be able to determine the levels of numeracy and literacy needed to run the station and will then give people an opportunity to take part in appropriate courses which will lift their skills to the industry standard."

Shirley will spend the next few months interviewing Operations employees to determine current literacy and numeracy skills and future needs. The study will involve the development of a training plan and recommendations for future programs.

Shirley's project, building on work already being done by Central Gippsland College of TAFE, will help TAFE plan ongoing programs. TAFE tutors are currently running two literacy classes involving 30 Hazelwood employees.

She agreed that both the SEC and individual employees would benefit from improved numeracy and literacy levels.

"Employees will benefit personally because these skills will put them in a better position for job promotions as well as helping them at home."

Shirley emphasised that all



Traralgon Secondary College teacher Shirley Musgrove who is conducting a literacy and numeracy study at Hazelwood Power Station.

information received from employees would remain "absolutely confidential".

"All individual survey sheets

will be destroyed, with the information analysed and summarised for reporting and planning purposes only," she said.

Teacher Shirley on TRIP

The Teacher Release to Industry Program (TRIP) involves the placement of 80 experienced teachers in business and industry throughout Victoria for about 40 weeks.

Teacher Shirley Musgrove says TRIP's aim is to further develop links between education and industry.

"It also provides teachers with extended work experience out of the classroom and an opportunity to develop a variety of skills which will enhance our performance when we return to teaching," she says.

Shirley spent 20 weeks on secondment with the Latrobe Regional Commission before beginning work at Hazelwood Power Station.

TRIP participants also study for a Graduate Certificate in Education from Deakin University.

Bravery award for SEC's Mark

SEC employee Mark Wilkins has received a bravery award for rescuing a trapped driver from a burning vehicle just moments before it exploded into flames.

Mark, a business support officer with Maintenance Services in Morwell, together with Gormandale man Norman Ripper, were named recently in the Governor-General bravery commendations.

This week, Mark recalled the incident on 2 November, 1991, when he and his girlfriend came across a damaged utility on fire near Gormandale.

Mark, who could see that the injured driver was slumped against the dashboard, tried unsuccessfully to pull him from the vehicle while his girlfriend waved down a passing car driven by Norman Ripper. Mark said the task was made more difficult because the driver weighed about 165 kilograms (26 stone).

Mark and Norman then attempted, also without success, to extinguish the rapidly spreading fire.

"The fire was just about

reaching the driver, so we smashed the window and managed to pull him clear," said Mark.

"Less than a minute after we pulled him out, the vehicle went up in about four or five explosions."

Mark said he didn't realise the danger of the situation until he thought about it at home that evening.

"If we had been two minutes later, we could have gone up with it.

"At the time you don't think about yourself or the danger — you just want to get the guy out.

"If we hadn't been able to get him out that would have been it. But it still didn't hit me that I had actually saved someone's life until I was told about the bravery award recommendation.

"I think anyone would have done it if they were in that situation and I would certainly do it again."

The driver, who was seriously injured in the accident, spent between four and five months in hospital.



Mark Wilkins...one of only five Australians to receive a bravery commendation this year.

Power Grid a safety star

Eastern Area Power Grid (EAPG) has been awarded three stars in the National Safety Council's Five Star Health and Safety Management Program.

EAPG was awarded three stars after a comprehensive audit, including worksite inspections, of the business unit's health and safety systems and work practices during May this year.

EAPG Manager Mike Tshaikiwsky said EAPG, after joining the program 12 months ago, was now seeing early benefits by being awarded three stars in only its first audit grading.

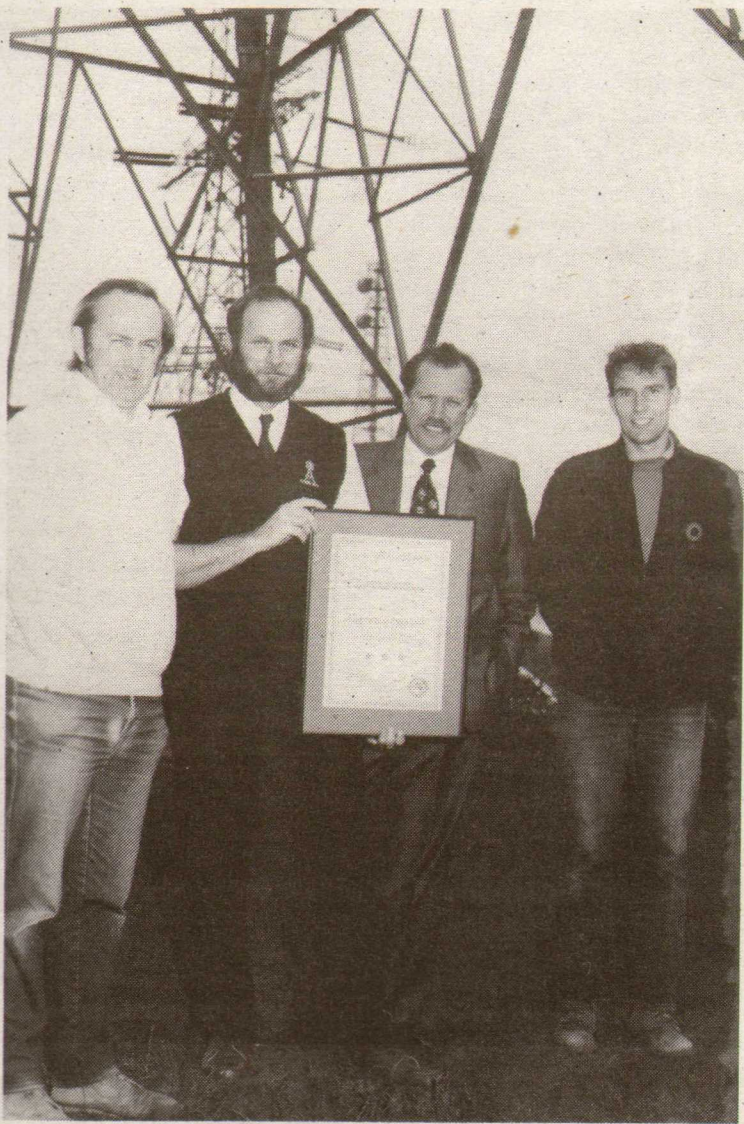
Mike said work performed by EAPG was hazardous and included maintenance and operation of high voltage system equipment and overhead transmission lines normally energised at up to 500,000 Volts.

EAPG employees also work on lower voltage metering and protection circuits, bushfire mitigation projects using chainsaws, bulldozers and graders, often in steep terrain.

"The Three Star rating is a credit to all Eastern Area employees when you consider the type of work in which they are involved," said Mike.

Eastern Area Power Grid adopted the Five Star system after workplace representatives visited other businesses looking at their health and safety initiatives.

These employees then recommended adoption of the program within the business unit, with about 25 per cent of the unit's 151 employees volunteering to be involved in one or more aspects.



Proud Eastern Area Power employees with the certificate recognising their achievement. From left, Health and Safety Representative Geoff McCartney, Safety and Training Consultant Chris Moy, EAPG Manager Mike Tshaikiwsky and Health and Safety Rep Mark Bostedt.

A certificate recognising the achievement was presented to Mike on behalf of all personnel by Victorian Safety Council Manager Tony Hargraves.

"All EAPG employees are to be congratulated on receiving this award. Only a small number of organisations receive Three Stars at their first grading," said Mike.

"The group is continuing the excellent performance by com-

pleting 17 months (460,000 work hours) without a Lost Time Injury."

Mike said Eastern Area Power Grid was a vital component of the local power industry.

Based in the Latrobe Valley, EAPG is responsible for Power Grid assets from Pakenham to Mallacoota which transmit about 72 per cent of the State's energy each day.

So, another So invention solves Loy Yang problem

Cleaning of Loy Yang A Power Station furnace walls is safer and physically less demanding thanks to a new device developed by SEC employees.

Water cannons mounted on monitors at the burner mouth have been used with considerable success to clean Loy Yang's boilers — but there are still problems associated with their use.

• An operator, harnessed by safety belt, is required to

stand inside the burner mouth while using it, and

• Much effort is needed to move the monitor into position as the area around the burner door is extremely cramped.

Production Technology Field Services Engineer So Siu Hoi and Loy Yang A supervisor Nick Demetrios have come up with a solution. They have developed a remote-controlled monitor with a new handling device which greatly reduces manual handling by eliminating the

need for operators to stand inside the burner mouth.

So said the operation could now be controlled by joy-stick from a door providing a clear view of the furnace wall.

Loy Yang A Stage Two Production Manager Chris McQuillen was impressed with the device.

"The water jet can be pointed easily in any direction — it's just like playing a computer game — and you don't even get wet," said Chris.