

Exciting Industry Supply Chain Synergies for the Gladstone Region

Dr Ken King, Chief Executive, Gladstone Economic and Industry Development Board (GEIDB) and Dr Glen Corder, Senior Research Project Manager, Co-operative Research Centre for Sustainable Resource Processing (CSRP) said there were some exciting existing and emerging industrial synergies in the Gladstone Region in the context of sustainable development, supply chain and by-product synergies.

Dr King and Dr Corder agreed that there has already been great environmental and industry outcomes achieved at Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL), the Gladstone Power Station (GPS) and at Boyne Smelters Limited (BSL) and there should be many more to come.

They highlighted the water reuse initiative between Gladstone City Council, QAL and GPS in which all of Gladstone City's secondary treated sewage is reused. This exciting synergy saves some 2500 to 3000ML of raw water a year.

"There's also an exciting waste management initiative between Boyne Smelters Limited (BSL) and Cement Australia where spent cell liners from BSL are used as fuel in Cement Australia's high temperature kilns." Dr Corder said.

Dr King said "Ongoing industry development in the Gladstone Region will certainly provide further synergies like these and it's essential that we continue to work with established and emerging industries to identify viable opportunities and enhance the overall eco-efficiency of the region and its material supply chains."

"The CSRP by-product synergies project being undertaken by Dr Corder with support from the Gladstone Area Industry Network (GAIN) members comprising QAL, BSL, GPS, Gladstone Area Water Board, Central Queensland Ports Authority, Cement Australia, Orica Australia, Comalco Alumina Refinery, Queensland Energy Resources Limited and Transpacific Industries aims to do just that," he said.

Dr Corder said "Sustainability will drive the search for opportunities to capture regional synergies in key processing areas and identify opportunities to lift those synergies to the next level."

"One of these opportunities centres on re-using by-products as alternative fuels. There is an active alternative fuels program at Cement Australia and there is potential to divert items that currently go to landfill for re-use as alternative fuels. This is a better environmental solution and would reduce the consumption of non-renewable fuel sources. There are also opportunities to re-use industrial and grey water on a 'fit-for-purpose' basis at industrial operations, much like the synergy between Gladstone City Council, QAL and GPS," he said.

Dr King said "Synergies on a wider scale are also being considered. For example quicklime from Cement Australia could be used to recover sulphur dioxide and produce gypsum at the proposed Queensland Coke and Energy plant at Stanwell. This synthetic gypsum could replace the imported gypsum currently being used as a raw material for cement production at Cement Australia."

"The GEIDB was pleased to support the local CSRP by-product synergies project which has a focus on sustainability and is about developing and promoting our regional capacity. One of the real benefits of a research project of this nature is that there is a constant awareness of potential by-product synergy opportunities. In addition, the research outcomes lead to a better understanding of the factors for developing new synergy initiatives," Dr King said.

"Value chain and by-product opportunities are a key part of the GEIDB's strategy to facilitate sustainable economic and industry development for the Gladstone Region. We are keen to continue to work with CSRP and GAIN in this regard and follow up on project and workshop outcomes such as water reuse, alternative fuels, chemical production and the coal supply chain." he said.

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