



# Construction of power plant gets underway

By ISOBEL GIBBINS

BOW Energy Ltd started construction this week on its first gas-fired power project near Blackwater.

Located about 15 kilometres north-east of the town, Bow's 100 per cent owned, 30 megawatt project should create more than 200 jobs during construction, with additional staff required for operation and maintenance after its completion in March next year.

"The Central Highlands Regional Council has welcomed the project as a boost for jobs and economic growth in the Blackwater and Emerald region," said Bow Energy's chief executive officer John De Stefani.

The Blackwater Power Project will be supplied with

clean burning coal seam gas (CSG) from Bow's nearby Blackwater CSG field, which has current certified coal seam gas reserves of 1,382 petajoules (PJ) of 3P and 59PJ of 2P (net to Bow). The power project is expected to require around 2PJ per annum of gas.

Once complete, the power station will produce the equivalent energy to supply 30,000 homes with power.

The Blackwater Power Project will be used for a combination of domestic power supply and industrial power supply to mining companies in the area, said Mr De Stefani.

"It will also be quieter and with far less emissions than coal fired power stations. You won't even notice the power station is there," he said.

The principal contractor on the project is Clarke Energy, which also built the similar sized Daandine Power Station near Dalby.

It expects to have completed the bulk earthworks on the main pad and have poured the engine slab concrete over the course of the next month.

"The Blackwater Power Project is a long-term investment. For us Blackwater is the hub for our business," said Mr De Stefani.

"Bow sees this as a model which could be replicated across the company's strategic CSG fields in Queensland's Bowen Basin in addition to the potential for larger scale integrated power generation developments."



■ **TURNING THE FIRST SOD: Bow Energy's John De Stefani (centre) was joined by Mayor Peter Maguire to officially mark the commencement of the Blackwater Power Project.**

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