

Guardian News 31.8.2011

Mungullah power plant makes progress

BEN O'HALLORAN

MUNGULLAH Power Station is a step closer to completion after the start of works to install the underground dual 22-kilovolt express feeder.

Earthworks for Carnarvon's new power station are expected to be complete by the end of the month and other key infrastructure, including generators, transformers and switch-rooms, are under construction.

Horizon district area manager for the Gascoyne and Mid West, Mark Bruce, said the location of the new power station away from

the town centre had been well received by the community.

"The Shire of Carnarvon, other key stakeholders and the local community as a whole are eager for the new power station to be operational," he said.

Mungullah Power Station will have a generation capacity of 18 megawatts and will include a helipad for use during extreme weather conditions.

Horizon Power said the project was on track for completion in 2012.

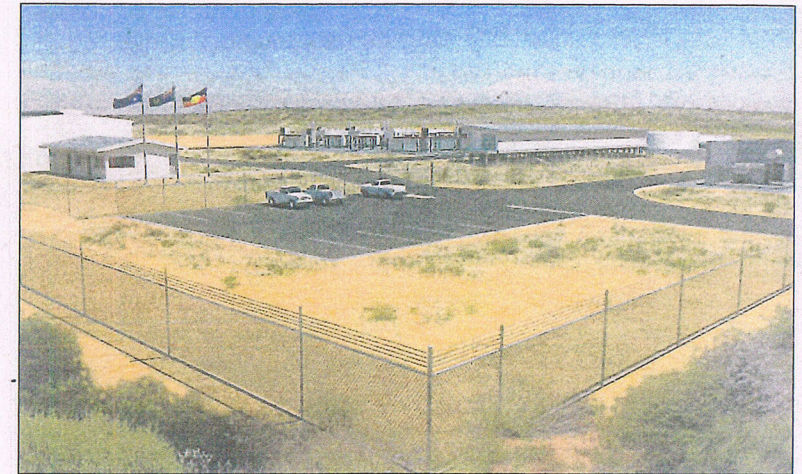
Project Manager Don Sollitt describes Mungullah Power Station as "state of the art".

"This station will be a credit to Horizon Power and the Gascoyne area," he said.

"Mungullah Power Station will meet the generation needs of the region for many years to come, be more efficient and the existing station and has been designed to ensure operations can continue during extreme adverse weather conditions."

The scale of earth works at the Brown Range site has generated great interest among the community.

More than 54,000 tonnes of pindan soil have been removed since the project started in March.



An artist's impression of the new Mungullah Power Station. Picture: Jennifer Fry



Seagrass acts as carbon sponge

SEAGRASS meadows off the coast of Shark Bay could be the answer to Australia's carbon tax, with a potential 350 million tonnes of carbon storage capacity.

The mass of seagrass acts as giant carbon sponge, which, as a carbon offset to the proposed tax, could be worth up to \$8 billion.

University of Western Austra-

liana said the world's seagrass was disappearing faster than coral reefs and rainforests, all of which were important natural carbon storage mechanisms.

"There are about 4000sqkm of seagrass in the bay which places it among the largest seagrass meadows that have been recorded in the world," he said.

"When you think of carbon storage and ecosystems, you generally think of canopies of trees, so a lot of attention has gone into

Professor Fourqurean said the world's seagrass was disappearing faster than coral reefs and rainforests, all of which were important natural carbon storage mechanisms.

The proposed carbon tax prices carbon at \$23 per tonne, making Shark Bay's meadows worth \$8 billion on the world market.