

Adelaide Brighton has taken significant steps throughout 2003 to improve its environmental performance and to build constructive, positive relationships with stakeholders at its manufacturing sites. The Company is committed to achieving a safe, productive and healthy work environment through responsible business management and in a manner designed to protect its employees, adjacent communities and the natural environment.

The local Scout community assisted the Munster plant to revegetate a land filled former quarry to create a buffer zone around the Munster plant and create a "green corridor" for wildlife



Performance and highlights

The Company's operations are subject to various Commonwealth, State and Territory laws governing the protection of the environment. Environmental operating licences govern the major plant operations and impose stringent performance standards.

The Adelaide Brighton Cement Birkenhead and Angaston operations are certified to the international environment standard, ISO 14001, and retained this certification following external audits during 2003. The Western Australian division of our road stabilisation business, Pavement Technology Ltd, also achieved certification to ISO 14001 during the year.

WA shellsand dredging

Following Ministerial approval in 2002 to continue dredging of shellsand in Owen Anchorage, a detailed environmental management plan has been implemented to ensure protection and ongoing monitoring of the seagrass and adjacent environment.

Research into seagrass rehabilitation, monitoring of wave climate behaviour, beach and shoreline profiles and further work on benthic mapping in areas adjacent to our dredging operations continued during the year.

This research reflects the high quality environmental management in Owen Anchorage and the significant commitment by the Company to its long-term operations in lime and cement manufacturing.

Woodman Point shellsand operation

Approval has been received from the Western Australian Department of Environment for an upgrade of the jetty at the shellsand wash plant at Woodmans Point. The jetty upgrade and subsequent works will accommodate a new dredging strategy which will allow the re-dredging of previously worked areas.

Angaston emissions reduction

The installation of a 'state of the art' baghouse filter on clinker kiln 3 at the Adelaide Brighton Cement Angaston operation has resulted in improved environmental performance as well as improved production efficiencies through fewer shutdowns and interruptions.

Alternative fuels and raw materials

Significant progress in alternative fuels and raw materials trials in South Australia occurred during 2003. The Environmental Protection Authority has agreed to approve the use of carbon powder, black sand and demolition wood waste at the Birkenhead operation.

The Angaston operation also received approval to use carbon powder, however, the use has not yet progressed due to product quality requirements not being met.

Cockburn Cement Munster licence

Following an audit conducted by the Western Australian Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Munster site operating licence was modified to include specific environmental performance requirements. Projects continued in 2003 to reduce both stack and fugitive dust emissions as well as extensive monitoring of the ambient environment.

Hy-Tec Concrete

The new and upgraded Hy-Tec Concrete batching plants have demonstrated excellent environmental performance and efforts are continuing to ensure statutory environmental performance is met with the older concrete batch plants.

Community consultation

Continuing positive and constructive consultation to improve community relationships at our product manufacturing sites occurred throughout the year.

Structured community meetings have been held on a regular basis across the major manufacturing sites and provide the opportunity for residents to meet with Company management to discuss the Environmental Improvement Plan relevant to each operation.

Community consultation provides an important link between our environmental performance and the neighbourhoods in which we operate.