

Environment

Adelaide Brighton is committed to achieving a safe, productive and healthy work environment through responsible business practices that protect its employees, adjacent communities and the natural environment.

WA shellsand dredging

In late 2004 new dredging operations commenced at Woodman Point against a backdrop of environmental management activities that drew Ministerial approval. The Company continued its study of seagrass rehabilitation, along with the monitoring of wave climate behaviour and beach and shoreline profiles. It also carried out further research into seafloor mapping in areas adjacent to the dredging operations.

Munster

The Woodman Point jetty and reclaimer process was upgraded following Department of Environment approval. The work - undertaken to accommodate the new dredge and sand stockpile storage requirements - and the new equipment will further improve the precision of the shellsand stockpile management.

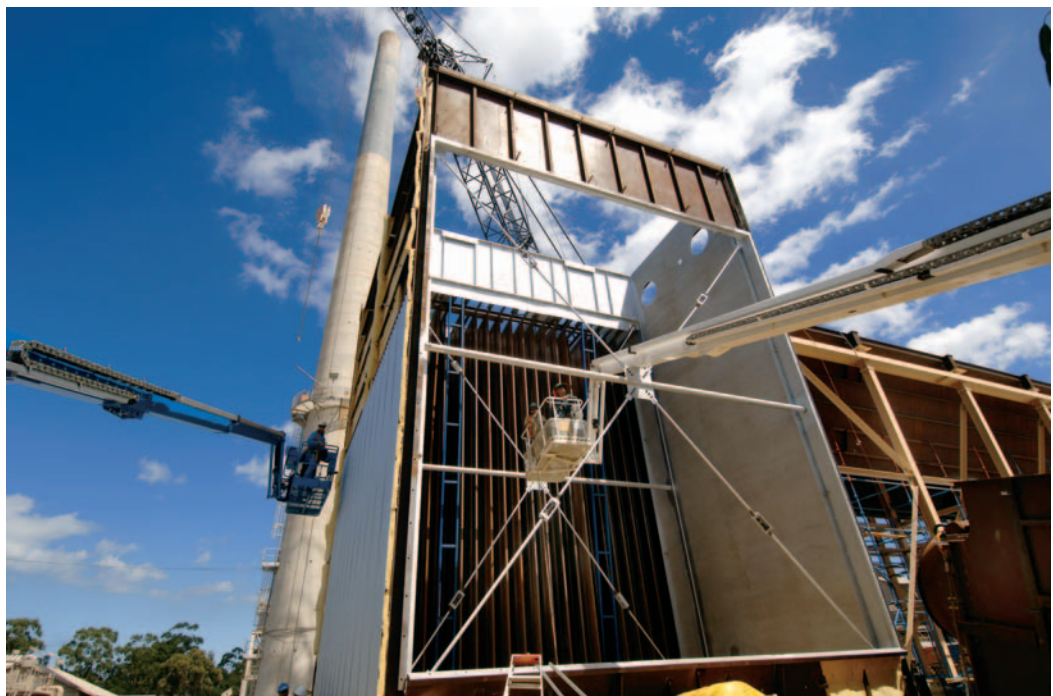
Angaston water conservation initiative

The Angaston plant in South Australia's Barossa Valley received Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) approval to use up to 80 mega litres per annum of winery wastewaters in its cement manufacturing process. The initiative forms part of the Company's sustainability programme in utilising alternative raw materials and not only conserves previously used mains water but provides the wine industry with an outlet for waste waters they previously had to dispose of.

Angaston emissions reduction

The 2003 installation of a bag-house filter at the Angaston plant's Number 3 clinker kiln led to improved environmental performance and, with fewer kiln shutdowns and operational interruptions, increased production efficiencies.

Installation of a new electrostatic precipitator on Munster Kiln 4. Like a filter, the electrostatic precipitator traps dust by creating a strong electric field. The dust collected is re-used by being fed back into the kiln to be processed.



Birkenhead environmental improvement

The Company developed a comprehensive environmental improvement plan for Birkenhead in 2004. The plan, costing up to \$12 million over three years, incorporates projects to reduce plant stack and fugitive emissions and the installation of new materials handling infrastructure to meet the highest standards of environmental management. It also responds to the new Port River Expressway project that traverses Birkenhead land and the demand by the State Government to relocate the emergency limestone stockpile.

Alternative fuels and raw materials

During 2004, the EPA in SA approved the use of carbon powder, demolition wood and black sand as alternative fuels and primary materials at the Birkenhead plant. Environmental benefits include natural gas savings and a reduction in landfill quantity, the latter being particularly important when dealing with biodegradable materials that decay within a landfill and cause greenhouse gases such as methane.

Cockburn Cement Munster licence

The Munster site enhanced its environmental performance by adding specific environmental improvement conditions to its operating licence following extensive regulatory and community consultation. Efforts to reduce stack and fugitive dust emissions continued during the year, as did monitoring of the ambient environment.

Concrete

Environmental performance at Hy-Tec received greater focus during 2004, with management overseeing further improvements to the concrete plants that allow agitator bowl wash water and general waste waters to be contained on-site.

Austen Quarry

The infrastructure for quarrying operations at the Austen Quarry in New South Wales commenced in 2004. Advanced planning has ensured that all required environmental and safety conditions comply with the Development Application, while the assembled management team is equipped to deliver quarry design and construction of the highest environmental standard.



Concrete products

New Environmental Improvement Plans for the concrete brick and pavement products sites will ensure that these facilities adopt a systematic approach to the management of environmental issues. Furthermore, close co-operation with regulatory authorities will help to deliver a high standard of environmental performance.

Environmental improvements at Cockburn Cement's Munster plant included a new truck wash facility. All lime tankers are washed down before leaving the site and the bore water used in the process is collected and recycled into the Munster wetlands.